

THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THIS SECTION
Keegan: wrong for the job?
RICHARD WILLIAMS, PAGE 24

The rising price of a top flight education
EDUCATION

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Investigation launched after 28 babies die in hospital experiment

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

MINISTERS HAVE ordered an inquiry into research at an NHS trust where an experimental treatment carried out on 122 premature babies resulted in the death or injury of 43 of them.

The inquiry, which addresses similar issues to those in the Bristol heart babies case, will focus on whether the experiment was allowed to go on too long and whether proper consent was obtained from the parents who allowed their babies to take part in the trial.

INSIDE

■ What the Henshall family didn't know page 3

■ A man of controversy page 3

■ Leading article Review, page 3

The experimental treatment at the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent involved the use of a new type of ventilator like a modern version of the iron lung to help the babies breathe. Between 1989 and 1993, 122 babies had the new treatment and 28 died and 15 suffered brain damage.

Some claim they were told it was the "safest, gentlest" treatment and they were being given the best care available. They say they were not told the treatment was experimental. The ventilators are no longer used for premature babies but they are still in use for older infants. The Independent has learned that Baroness Hay-



Professor David Southall, the consultant paediatrician whose ventilator study involving premature babies will be examined by the inquiry

man, minister of health, ordered the inquiry last week and appointed Professor Rod Griffiths, regional director of public health for the West Midlands, to lead it.

The General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary

body, is also examining a complaint from parents backed by a 1,600-page dossier.

A spokeswoman for the health department confirmed that Prof Griffiths had been asked to "undertake a review of the general framework for the

approval and monitoring of clinical research projects" at North Staffordshire NHS trust. Prof Griffiths has asked Dr Michael Harrison, former director of public health for the West Midlands, and Cynthia Nash, former general man-

ager of the West Midlands public health directorate, both now of Midlands Health Consultancy Network, to carry out the review and report to him.

The Trust confirmed last night that the inquiry is focused on the ventilator study

led by Prof David Southall, a consultant paediatrician who has attracted controversy over other studies including the covert video surveillance of parents suspected of child abuse. They were secretly filmed while their children were

in hospital. Some were cases of Munchausen by proxy, the attention-seeking personality disorder. Between 1986 and 1994, that led to 34 successful criminal prosecutions. Prof Southall had been accused of being an agent provocateur and of false

allegations. The inquiry into the North Staffordshire Trust was triggered when Lin Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, was approached by a family affected by the ventilator treatment. Carl and Debbie Henshall's daughter, Stacy, died on the machine in February 1992. Her sister, Sofie, born in November 1982, suffered brain damage and is permanently disabled. Ms Golding met the Henshalls then approached Baroness Hayman who set up the inquiry.

Ms Golding said: "I am not against research as long as the people involved know what is going on. The Henshalls felt they had not been informed about the experimental nature of the treatment."

"There is also a possibility that the research went on too long and should have been stopped sooner."

"I am not pre-judging the situation and I am not attacking Prof Southall. We need someone to look at children's issues with an open mind and he is trying to do things for children. The question is how far should he have gone?"

In a statement to The Independent last night the Trust said the ventilator study was approved by its research ethics committee and that it holds consent forms signed by all the patients involved.

All the babies were at high risk because of their prematurity and rates of death and disability among the 122 babies who received the experimental treatment were no different from those who received conventional treatment.

"There is no evidence to support the implication that any disability or death were a consequence of the study," it said.

Israelis kill 3 Kurdish protesters

ISRAELI GUARDS shot dead three Kurdish demonstrators and wounded another 16 in front of their general consulate in Berlin yesterday, as Germany was engulfed in protests over Turkey's capture of the rebel Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Two protesters died immediately, their blood leaving a red trail on Berlin's fresh snow. The third died in hospital shortly after arrival. Several of the injured were reported to be in a serious condition.

The Israelis - blamed by the Kurds for helping the Turks to

BY IMRE KARACS
In Berlin
ERIC SILVER AND
ANDREW BUNCOMBE

capture their leader - said they acted in self-defence, while protecting their heavily fortified building in the suburb of Grunewald from demonstrators armed with sticks and stones.

The latest bloodshed threatens to provoke further waves of protests across Europe where many Kurds live in exile.

Turkish television yesterday showed the first footage of the rebel leader on the flight to

Turkey. Handcuffed and tied up in an aircraft seat, he grimaced as masked Turkish special forces captors questioned him.

"Abdullah Ocalan, welcome home," said one. "You are our guest from now on." "Thank you," said Mr Ocalan. "I really love Turkey and the Turkish people." Pressing home their advantage against the PKK, the Turkish military sent tanks and 2,000 troops into neighbouring Iraq to destroy Kurdish bases.

In Berlin, the protest by about 200 Kurds was initially peaceful. But shortly before

2pm, a group of 30 smashed through the cordon of police, and appeared poised to storm the building. The Kurds also briefly took a woman employee hostage. In the scuffles, the Israelis say one demonstrator tried to snatch a gun from a guard whose colleagues then opened fire, allegedly without warning.

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said last night: "Our security guards have clear instructions to protect their own lives, to protect the lives of Israelis, and to prevent, if necessary by force, the

taking of hostages." He denied Israel played any role in getting the PKK leader into Turkish hands.

In London, the Greek embassy remained in the hands of about 40 Kurdish protesters who announced a hunger strike and said they would set themselves on fire if the police attacked. Tension increased at one point as one man apparently doused himself in petrol before being restrained by the crowd and then dragged away by police. Elsewhere in Europe protests were dying down last night.

Violence flared in other parts of Germany, and rumours swept Berlin that Kurds were planning to stage a protest on the Ku'dam, the highest shopping street. In Hamburg, about 30 PKK members occupied the offices of the governing Social Democrat Party, injuring a party worker they took hostage.

There are an estimated 600,000 Kurds living in Germany, and some 2 million Turks. Conflict between the two communities has in the past spilled over on to Germany's streets.

Kurdish protests, pages 12 and 13



A Kurdish activist injured in Berlin yesterday Reuters

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Ulster peace milestone
Sinn Fein and Ulster Unionist parties meet for the first time
Home P2

Modified foods firm fined
Monsanto must pay £17,000 for 'genetic pollution'
Home P4

Lawrence witness's fury
Duwayne Brooks has split from the Lawrence campaign
Home P5

Shock for big universities
Applications to colleges in big cities have slumped
Home P9

Zimbabwe in crisis
Democracy is in the mortuary as Mugabe is challenged
Foreign P15

Kosovo talks cliffhanger
Serbia refuses to have Nato troops on Yugoslav soil
Foreign P16

Jobless lowest since 1980
Unemployment fell despite the economic slowdown
Business P18

Arsenal star speaks out
Nicolas Anelka once more criticises Arsenal team-mates
Sport P29

INSIDE THE REVIEW

Steve Richards
Inviting businessmen to join Government was not a good idea
Comment P3

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown
How does a man know if his seed has been stolen?
Comment P4

Bridge of sighs
Cambridge, a victim of its own success: no one can afford to live there
Features P8

This gay life
There's now as queer as tabloid homophobia
Arts P9

9 770951 346542
TODAY'S TELEVISION
BACK PAGE

| OVERSEAS PRICES | |
|-----------------|-----------|
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| USA | 4.50 US |
| UK | 20.00 |
| West Germany | 20.00 DM |
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| Other | 12.00 |

HOME 2-11, FOREIGN 12-16, BUSINESS 16-23, SHARES 22, UNIT TRUSTS 29, SPORT 30-33, CRYPTO CROSSWORD 34, WEATHER 2

WINNER BEST ALBUM AND BEST BRITISH BAND, BRIT AWARDS 1999



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'If there's a working class in Islington, it's assumed it must be for ironic purposes'

MARK STEEL ON THE LIFE Faced BY REFUGEES AT THE HOME OF NEW LABOUR

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, BRIAN VINER, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McILROY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILLS KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Milestone as Trimble and Adams meet

THE NORTHERN Ireland peace process yesterday passed another milestone with the first delegate meetings between Sinn Féin and David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party.

While Mr Trimble and Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams have held a number of meetings in the former's capacity as First Minister-designate, this was a formal party-to-party occasion which appears to be without precedent in Northern Ireland's history.

Afterwards it was reported that little headway was made on key issues, in particular that of IRA arms decommissioning. But the atmosphere was described as businesslike, which is perhaps better than might have been expected for an encounter between two parties which have spent decades denouncing each other.

Mr Trimble's delegation included Ken Maginnis MP, the party security spokesman, whose forthright style is said to have given rise to some tense moments. Participants added, however, that Unionist MP John Taylor had played a useful part in defusing these.

Mr Trimble said later: "We

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

hope the republican movement does realise the opportunity that is here, and does realise the obligation that the (Good Friday) Agreement does place on them in the process to decommission their weapons. We hope that will take place in the next few weeks, but I cannot say that anything that did take place this morning gave me any reassurance."

Mr Adams said: "Irish republicans and Ulster Unionists have to get it into our heads that we are on the one side. This is about pro-Agreement and anti-Agreement parties. The majority of the people on this island have voted in support of the Agreement. We are wedded to seeing it implemented in all its aspects."

Mr Adams said he had asked for further meetings; Mr Trimble said he could not tell at this stage whether there would be more. The parties who support the Good Friday Agreement appear to have taken great heart from Tuesday's 77 to 29 Assembly vote in favour of new government structures for

Northern Ireland, though the decommissioning issue remains unresolved.

Mr Trimble later went from Belfast to London where yesterday evening he met Tony Blair in Downing Street, where earlier this week the Prime Minister met Mr Adams. In Belfast there is now a sense that the political pace is quickening.

Sinn Féin also met a delegation yesterday from the Presbyterian church for the first meeting between the two bodies. Afterwards the Rev John Dixon, described decommissioning as both a moral issue and a political necessity.

He added: "We recognise there is a phenomenal gulf of trust between everybody in this whole situation. We have been pleading for decommissioning as a trust building exercise with the Unionist community, just as we have seen things like the release of prisoners for those in the republican community."

Mr Dixon said he had no reason not to take republicans at their word on the peace process, but added: "We will look for actions to demonstrate that."



Nigel Simms dressed as a Viking warrior yesterday in preparation for the Jolablot Viking festival in York which starts today

Kidnap Briton freed in Nigeria

A BRITISH oil worker held hostage in southern Nigeria for seven days has been released unharmed by his kidnappers, his employer announced yesterday.

Jim Simpson, abducted in the Delta region of Nigeria on February 9, was recovering in the southern town of Warri after his ordeal, according to Oiltools International. He was snatched in Warri with two co-workers, an Italian and a Nigerian, who have also been freed.

Joe Rovig, senior vice president for Oiltools (Europe and Africa), said Mr Simpson was being reunited in Warri with his wife and young son.

He said: "Our managers in the area have spoken to him. He is physically unharmed, but he was held for seven days, which is very trying as you can imagine."

Mr Rovig said the company would see that both men had thorough medical checks to make sure they were fit. He added there was "absolutely no pressure" on Mr Simpson to return to work. He could "relax, unwind and spend time with his family and decide what to do."

"He is now back in control of his own life and the ball is in his court," Mr Rovig added.

He confirmed Mr Simpson was from England and in his late 30s, but declined to give any more details at the request of the family. He would not comment on whether a ransom had been paid to secure the hostages' release.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed Mr Simpson's freedom and said: "The British Vice Consul from Lagos is in Warri at the moment and he is assisting the company." The spokesman did not know if a ransom had been paid, adding: "We were not directly involved in the negotiations."

On Monday, a British teacher, Martin Westbury from Lancashire, and his two-year-old son Benjamin were released unharmed by kidnappers in the same region.

Britain underlines commitment to Gibraltar

BRITAIN WARNED yesterday that there would be no compromise over the sovereignty of Gibraltar.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, Foreign Office minister, told the Lords that the Government regretted Spain's use of "border controls as a policy lever" in the row over fishing rights.

BY TREVOR MASON

Answering an emergency question, she confirmed that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, would meet the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, this weekend to discuss the dispute.

The Tory foreign affairs spokesman, Lord Moyinhan,

pressed her to "go one step further and take this opportunity to condemn unreservedly the Spanish threat to refuse to recognise Gibraltar driving licences, which is in direct contravention to European law".

But Lady Symons struck a conciliatory note, saying it was better to create the right atmosphere ahead of the talks on

Sunday rather than "inflame" the situation. However, the minister stressed that Gibraltar driving licences were "valid under EU law and must be recognised by member states".

She said that delays at the border crossing with Spain had dropped from six hours to one hour, but this was still unacceptable.

Lady Symons told peers: "The Government regrets the use of border controls as a policy lever and will continue to defend Gibraltar's legitimate rights with determination."

"The keystone of our policy remains the 1969 commitment that we will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass

under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes."

Lord Moyinhan, who had tabled the emergency question, condemned Spain's threat to ban civil flights to and from Gibraltar.

He urged the minister to concur with the senior Tory Sir

Malcolm Rifkind's insistence when he was foreign secretary that the idea of joint sovereignty over Gibraltar was a non-starter.

Lady Symons said it would be "extraordinary and unprecedented" for an EU member state to introduce an over-flight ban on civil aircraft of a European partner.



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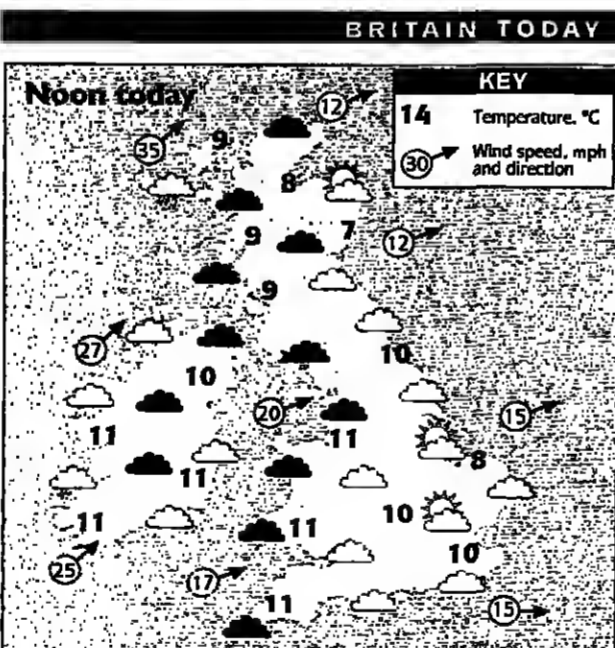
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FORECAST

General all-around Any remaining overnight rain in eastern England will soon clear to leave England and Wales mainly dry but rather cloudy. The best of any bright spells will be in areas sheltered from the brisk westerly breeze and western coasts may see a spot of drizzle. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be very mild but overcast and windy with drizzle rain on coasts and hills. Rain and snow will clear eastern Scotland this morning and it will become milder with a rapid thaw setting in.

SE & NE England, London, E Anglia, E England: Overnight rain will clear to leave a much milder day than recently with a few bright spells. A moderate westerly breeze. Max temp 9-11°C (48-52°F).

E Wales, Midlands, East & West England: Mild with occasional bright spells coming along but there will be a lot of cloud in general with the risk of drizzle along the coast. A light westerly breeze. Max temp 9-11°C (48-52°F).

Wales: Mild, mainly cloudy with some drizzle but it will become very mild. A moderate west to south-west breeze. Max temp 9-11°C (48-52°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Mainly cloudy with some drizzle but becoming very mild. A strong south-west wind. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Remaining overcast rain and snow clearing, then becoming much milder with a few sunny breaks. A fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

OUTLOOK

Scotland and Northern Ireland will become colder again later tomorrow with sunny spells and wintry showers. England and Wales will stay mild but there will be heavy and prolonged rain. Colder everywhere over the weekend with wintry showers.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J24, Tinsley Viaduct (A6100) & J24, Tinsley Viaduct (A6100). Sheffield: A10 between Foston and M1. Roadworks and bridge maintenance work at Shephard M1 J14. 14th February. Bristol: M5 J16-18. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Wrexham: M42 Between J10 Tarmworth services and J8 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 23rd April. Greater Manchester: A57, Norton lanes Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink construction work. Until 23rd February.

AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

BRITAIN TODAY

LIGHTING UP

| Location | Start | End |
|------------|--------|--------|
| Belfast | 5.37pm | 7.37am |
| Birmingham | 5.25pm | 7.16am |
| Bristol | 5.30pm | 7.17am |
| Cardiff | 5.27pm | 7.14am |
| Edinburgh | 5.20pm | 7.08am |
| Glasgow | 5.24pm | 7.20am |
| Manchester | 5.18pm | 7.21am |
| Newcastle | 5.18pm | 7.21am |

HIGH TIDES

| Location | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Avonmouth | 8.38 | 13.9 | 8.57 | 13.7 |
| Cardiff | 8.55 | 4.5 | 7.12 | 4.4 |
| Dover | 7.06 | 5.7 | 7.27 | 5.5 |
| Dun Laoghaire | 12.05 | 6.8 | 12.22 | 6.7 |
| Falmouth | 12.33 | 4.0 | 12.43 | 4.3 |
| Greenock | 8.37 | 5.5 | 6.58 | 5.3 |
| Harwich | 1.51 | 3.3 | 2.08 | 3.6 |
| Hastings | 1.03 | 4.0 | 1.27 | 4.1 |
| Holyhead | 11.40 | 5.9 | - | - |
| Hull (Albert Dock) | 7.40 | 8.8 | 7.49 | 9.1 |
| Kings Lynn | 7.41 | 7.0 | 7.48 | 7.6 |
| Leith | 3.54 | 5.6 | 4.08 | 5.7 |
| Liverpool | 12.20 | 9.5 | 12.39 | 9.9 |
| Millford Haven | 7.36 | 7.3 | 7.55 | 7.1 |
| Newquay | 6.27 | 7.2 | 6.47 | 7.1 |
| Portsmouth | 8.45 | 2.2 | 9.08 | 2.0 |
| Portsmouth | 12.27 | 4.7 | 12.39 | 4.8 |
| Prethall | 9.26 | 5.2 | 9.45 | 5.1 |
| Scarborough | 5.26 | 5.7 | 5.33 | 6.0 |
| Wich | 12.33 | 3.6 | 12.41 | 3.8 |

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

| Location | NO ₂ | SO ₂ |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| London | Good | Good |
| S England | Good | Good |
| Wales | Good | Good |
| C England | Good | Good |
| N England | Good | Good |
| Scotland | Good | Good |
| N Ireland | Good | Good |

SUN & MOON

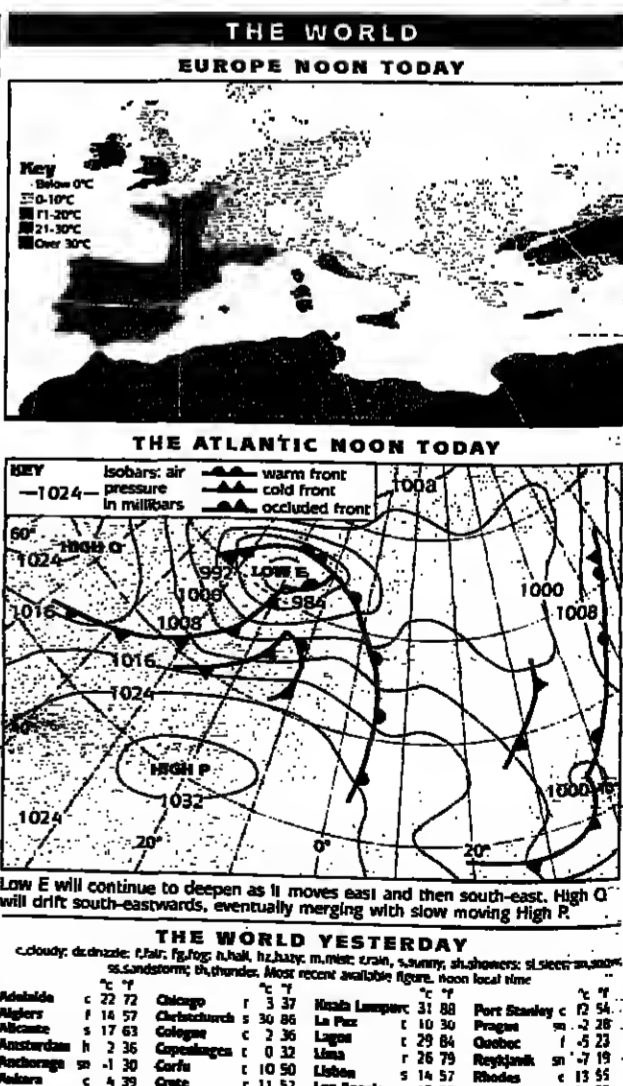
Sun rises: 07.10
Sun sets: 17.20
Moon rises: 08.22
Moon sets: 20.13
First Quarter: Feb 23

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5088 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE...

HEAVY SNOW has continued to cut off parts of central and eastern Europe with snowstorms yesterday isolating several villages and blocking major roads in the Czech Republic. About 50cm (19ins) of snow has fallen in the worst-hit region of Bohemia in the north-west part of the country. Conditions have been made worse by gale-force winds causing severe drifting. The army is clearing routes to stricken communities.



Hospital deaths: Controversial doctor led trials in which parents were encouraged to accept experimental techniques

'No one told us that our babies could be harmed by this'

WHEN DEBBIE Henshall's daughter, Sofie, was born prematurely at the North Staffordshire Hospital in December 1992, doctors were worried about her breathing. Mrs Henshall reacted the way any parent would. "You must do the best for my baby," she said.

The best, it turned out, meant putting Sofie on a new type of ventilator imported from America, which was being tested at the hospital.

Her parents say they were unaware that the treatment was experimental and that Sofie was being included in a trial. She did not do well. Brain damage was diagnosed. The Henshalls said a specialist dated its origin to the period she spent on the machine. By the age of two it was clear she would be permanently disabled.

It was the second tragedy to strike the family. In February

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

1992, Sofie's sister, Stacey, had been born prematurely and also with breathing problems. She had been on the same ventilator but she had died.

The questions for the inquiry ordered by the Health Minister Baroness Hayman are expected to be what the parents were told about the trial, whether it was properly approved and monitored by the hospital's ethics committee and whether it was allowed to continue after it should have been obvious many babies were dying or being permanently injured.

Carl and Debbie Henshall assumed that the double tragedy which struck their family - they have six other children who are well - was due to the girls' prematurity, which they



Sofie Henshall plays happily with her parents Carl and Debbie, unaware of the experiment that left 43 babies dead or brain damaged

knew carried high risks. But they also believed that they had received the normal care given to any premature baby.

They say they did not know they were part of an experiment involving 122 babies treated between 1989 and 1993, of whom 43 died or suffered brain damage.

The Henshalls declined to talk about their experience ahead of giving evidence to the inquiry ordered by Lady Hayman.

But in earlier interviews they were angry and dismayed

at the way they claim they were kept in the dark.

In 1997 Debbie said: "I believe that if both our girls had been given the normal treatment for breathing difficulties Stacey would be alive today and Sofie would be happily running around. Babies shouldn't be treated as pieces of meat."

The experiment, led by Professor David Southall and Dr Martin Samuel, was designed to see whether there was a better way of helping premature babies breathe than the standard method of inserting tubes

down their throats and blowing air into their lungs under "positive pressure", which sometimes caused rupture of the immature tissues.

Instead babies were placed in a low-pressure chamber like an old iron lung, with a seal around their necks, which inflated their lungs by a technique known as "continuous negative

extra-thoracic pressure" (CNETP), avoiding the need to insert tubes down their throats.

But a report of the trial published in the US journal *Pediatrics* in December 1996 noted differences in the blood flow through the brain in the CNETP-treated babies, visible on ultrasound. The ventilators are no longer used for premature babies

but are still used for older infants.

The Henshalls said the first they knew that their daughters had been involved in an experiment was four years later when they consulted a specialist in Leeds who told them about the trial. They said the new treatment was offered to them as the safest, gentlest op-

tion in contrast to the "horrors" of the conventional option.

"We felt damn lucky. It was literally sold to us," they said. They are now considering legal action against the North Staffordshire Hospital Trust, as are five other couples. They are among 18 families who have complained to the General Medical Council.

Doctor criticised earlier

DAVID SOUTHALL is no stranger to controversy. As professor of paediatrics at Keele University and consultant paediatrician at North Staffordshire Hospital, he has been involved in three high-profile research studies which have made him many enemies.

The first was the ventilator study (described above). The second involved covert video surveillance of parents suspected of child abuse - broadcast as "Someone to watch over me", shown on Channel 4 last month - that has put him in the line of fire from families who claimed they were falsely accused.

The third study involved depriving infants of oxygen to simulate the effects of a long flight. The aim was to test claims that prolonged air travel increased the likelihood of cot death, but he was accused of putting lives at risk. Of 34 babies

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

Parents say 'guinea-pig' trial killed their babies

The Independent on Sunday, 11 May 1997

ies given air containing 6 per cent less oxygen than normal, similar to that in an aircraft cabin, four showed signs of distress and had to be given immediate extra oxygen.

Professor Southall's work in child abuse infuriated some parents who say they have been falsely accused. In an interview with the *British Medical Journal* last year he said

he had been repeatedly threatened, his charity had been infiltrated and burgled and research grants and international aid had been blocked.

A consultant paediatrician, Colin Morley, formerly of Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, who now works in Australia, described his covert videotaping of parents suspected of child abuse as a "dangerous and deceptive game".

Professor Southall is unrepentant. He told the *BMJ*: "No one likes a covert investigation... It is in my opinion justified if there is no other way of identifying child abuse."

His supporters include some of the most eminent names in the profession, who cite a landmark study of cot death conducted at the Royal Brompton Hospital, London, in the 1980s as evidence of his research pedigree. That demonstrated that apnoea, the tendency of babies

to stop breathing for short periods, which had been suspected as a cause of cot death, played no role in the condition.

His supporters believe the inquiry has been made inevitable by the accusations of his enemies and will clear his name.

His detractors believe that his readiness to court controversy and to press research to its ethical limit was demonstrated in the study in which babies were deprived of oxygen. The North Staffordshire Hospital's own research ethics committee initially rejected the proposal because of fears about the possible danger to the babies involved.

It later relented after reassurances from Professor Southall that a paediatrician would be on permanent standby and there would be no coercion of parents to allow their babies to take part.

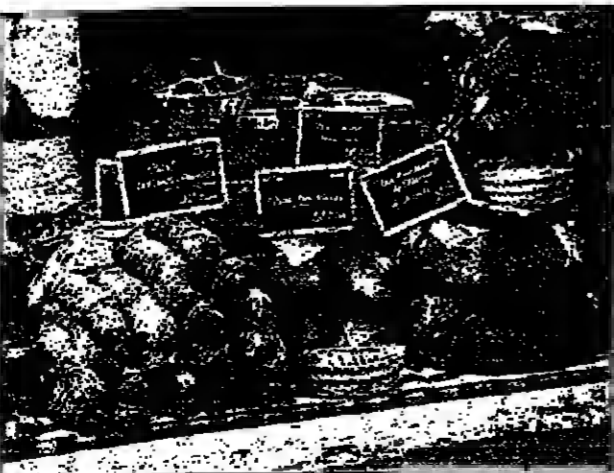
Fad for wholemeal carves up traditional Paris baguette

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

THE BAGUETTE, one of the cliché symbols of France, is in gentle but unmistakable decline, squeezed between a youthful taste for wholemeal bread and the rise of the factory-made bread stick.

These were the depressing conclusions of a survey of the bread-eating habits of the French, published by the newspaper *Le Figaro*, yesterday. Although 80 per cent of the bread eaten in France still comes in the shape of long, slender, white loaves, there has been a rapid decline in the sales of true baguettes (and their larger sisters, pains) in recent years.

Starting from zero 19 years ago, the sales of cheaper, factory-made, chemically-assisted baguettes have risen to 30 per cent of the market. Such bread is cheaper - only 30p to 40p a baguette - but spongy and tasteless compared with the



Wholemeal bread is steadily ousting the baguette

crisp, fresh, hand-made loaves for which France is celebrated (costing 40p to £1 a piece).

Another menacing trend has also been identified. People in their twenties and thirties are turning away from baguettes of all kinds towards wholemeal, longer-lasting bread. In the eyes of such people, *Le Figaro*

concludes, the baguette is a symbol of an "outdated, caricature France, comparable to the beret and the pitcher of cheap, red wine".

In truth, history is coming full circle. The baguette is a relatively recent invention of urban bakers in the 1930s and 1930s. The traditional French

bread of the 18th and 19th centuries, the shortage of which Queen Marie Antoinette apocryphally dismissed ("Let them eat cake"), was like the flat, wholemeal loaves now favoured by the fashionable young.

Sixty years is long enough to create a tradition, however. Bakers who make their own baguettes by the old methods - long fermentation of the dough, followed by baking in brick ovens - want the government to ban the use of the title "boulangerie" by the shops that simply warm up ready-mixed, factory-made dough. Such a rule was imposed in 1995 but overturned on appeal.

René Saint-Ouen, frequent winner of the award for the best baguettes in France, baked at his shop on the Boulevard Haussmann in Paris, said: "Industrial baguettes are the negation of true bread. They taste like nothing and disgust the consumer."

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Monsanto is fined for GM 'pollution'

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding genetically modified food continued yesterday when Monsanto, the US biotech company, which is the world's biggest promoter of GM products, was fined £17,000 for "genetic pollution" and then immediately vowed to fight any British moratorium on the growing of GM crops.

In the first prosecution of its kind in Britain, the Health and Safety Executive charged the company with failing to prevent pollen from genetically modified crops from being released into the environment at a trial site in Lincolnshire.

Monsanto admitted the offence and was also ordered by magistrates at Caistor, Lincolnshire, to pay £8,159 costs. Another company charged with a similar offence at the same site, the seed producer Perryfields Holdings, was fined £14,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,000.

The case was another setback for the Government in its



attempt to convince the public that genetically modified food plants present no risk, in cultivation or consumption.

The Food Safety minister, Jeff Rooker, insisted after the hearing that there was a "robust" regulatory system in place and that consumer protection was the Government's top priority.

But an HSE inspection found that the pollen barrier had been cut back in some places to just two metres to put in a roadway and improve the look of the site.

An HSE inspector, Andrew Tomney, also found a gap had been created between the GM

English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, has called for such a delay before such crops are grown commercially because of the dangers to wildlife of the new weedkillers developed to go with them.

Monsanto said it would resist any such move, if necessary by appealing to the European Commission.

The court heard that both Monsanto and Perryfields were using the plot at Rothwell to test-grow varieties of oilseed rape that had been genetically modified to be tolerant of particular weedkillers.

A condition of their licences was to keep a six-metre-wide pollen barrier of non-GM crops around the modified crops, to prevent modified pollen mixing with normal plants in the area.

But an HSE inspection found that the pollen barrier had been cut back in some places to just two metres to put in a roadway and improve the look of the site.

An HSE inspector, Andrew Tomney, also found a gap had been created between the GM



Friends of the Earth demonstrators on the field used by Monsanto for GM crops at Rothwell, near Caistor in Lincolnshire

Steve Hill

crops and the pollen-barrier crops, creating what he described as a "wind tunnel", allowing pollen to escape.

Simon Parrington, for the prosecution, said no one from either company bothered to visit the site to see if the terms

of their licences were being followed.

"Neither company had taken sufficient steps to make sure that the barriers were in place," he said.

The companies said the pollen barrier had been cut

back by an employee of the firm hired to manage the site.

Rhodri Price Lewis, for the defence of both companies, told the court: "An employee who was not aware of the consent regulations mowed and removed plants in order to make

it easier to get at the trial plants. This was not an act which was under the control of these companies."

A concern of ecologists is that pollen from herbicide-tolerant crops might carry weedkiller resistance into near-

by wild plants, so producing "superweeds."

But Dan Verakis of Monsanto said after the hearing that the chance of GM pollen affecting other crops in the area was minimal.

Letters, Review, page 2

Sainsbury firm has holding in US biotechnology



Lord Sainsbury: All his interests held in trust

LORD SAINSBURY of Turville made a major investment in an American biotechnology firm a few weeks before becoming a minister. *The Independent* has learned.

The company, Paradigm Genetics, recently teamed up with the German pharmaceutical and chemical company Bayer in a deal which earned it around £26m.

Paradigm will also receive success fees from Bayer if its herbicide-resistant crops are grown commercially.

John Redwood, the Conservative trade and industry spokesman, said the revela-

By FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

tion provided further evidence that the minister's position was untenable.

"He is very committed to this technology and has had a very wide range of business interests in it, some of which continue," he said.

"It makes it even more important that he should get his story straight about what he is allowed to do in government."

Lord Sainsbury, the science minister at the centre of a row over genetically modified food, is not directly involved in li-

censing the products but does sit on a cabinet committee on biotechnology.

Innotech Investments Ltd, a firm funded by Lord Sainsbury but placed in a trust with his other business interests when he became a minister, is named on Paradigm's web site as one of three major investors who put a total of £8m into the company.

The release is dated 1 July 1998 - four weeks before Lord Sainsbury became science minister.

Lord Sainsbury's direct involvement in the biotechnology business comes through two

firms - Innotech and Diotech. Innotech owns Floranova, a plant breeding company, and Elite Seeds, a seed and plant distribution company, both of which are based in Norfolk and both of which are developing genetically modified plants.

Diotech is directly involved in "natural science engineering". Lord Sainsbury's charity, the Gatsby Foundation, has put more than £2m a year into the study of plant science since 1990, most of which has been used to set up the Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich.

The laboratory is developing genetically modified crops and

is based in the grounds of the John Innes Centre, the biggest genetic research campus in Europe.

Paradigm has a scientific advisory board which includes the head of molecular genetics from the John Innes Centre, Michael Bevan.

Lord Sainsbury has said he will step aside from ministerial decisions on genetically modified food, but is in charge of the overall budget of the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council.

The council gives the Sainsbury Laboratory more than £300,000 per year in funding

through the University of East Anglia. A spokesman for Lord Sainsbury said he had placed all his interests in a trust as soon as he became a minister.

"The nature of this thing is that he doesn't know if he still owns it and he doesn't have any connections with its current activities," he said.

The Conservative leader William Hague tried to put new pressure on the Government by announcing that his party would introduce a measure in the House of Lords to place a moratorium on GM crops.

"The measure would have no chance of success."



Redwood: 'Minister's position is untenable'

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THE CASE FOR GM FOOD

Doing what comes naturally

THE WORD on everyone's lips when it comes to genetically modified food is that it is "unnatural". Why should we be forced to eat something that is the product of a scientist's sterile laboratory rather than Mother Nature? After all, our experience with BSE has shown us what can go wrong when the "experts" start messing around with the human food chain.

In fact we have been messing around with the human food chain for thousands of years. It began when the first farmers started to select strains of plants and animals

that could be selectively bred under unnatural conditions to produce, eventually, the crops and livestock we are familiar with today.

By selecting the physical traits of a plant or animal - and discarding others - humans hijacked the forces of natural selection to produce what are in effect artificial life-forms that would not exist in nature. An organically grown corn on the cob or free-range hen is no more natural than an English garden. Each is the product of human innovation.

GM is about taking this stage further by tinkering di-

rectly with the genes of a plant or animal. This can involve the transfer of DNA from one species to another, a rare but not impossible event in nature. It means the genetic selection can be targeted, unlike the trial and error of the past. But, like any innovation, it poses new risks.

The potential benefits include crops that are inherently resistant to pests, which might mean fewer agrochemicals being sprayed on farmland. It could bring crops resistant to drought for the developing world, or more nutritious staples for an ever-expanding

global population. It could also mean the countryside continues to become a monocultural desert for wildlife - including the insects and microbes that now eat 40 per cent of what we grow - which began long before the application of genetics to farming. GM technology could be a force for bad as well as good.

Which way it goes depends on what we decide to do with it and the safeguards we impose. A ban would mean we have thrown out the potential good with the possible bad.

STEVE CONNOR
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE CASE AGAINST

Fields where birds don't sing

YOU MAY never have heard of Green Concrete, but that's the idea behind much of the opposition to genetically modified food plants. It means a field devoid of all wildlife - insects, wildflowers, birds or animals - a field that is full of genetically engineered crops, but otherwise sterile.

It's what the Government's own environmental scientists fear Britain's farmland may turn into, once it is filled with new plants, which are being genetically engineered to be tolerant of a new generation of extremely powerful weedkillers.

This is the purpose of the vast majority of the hundreds of GM crops currently on trial in Britain. Get it straight: these are not tomatoes modified to taste sweeter or last longer.

They are nearly all oilseed rape, sugar beet and soybeans, which have been engineered by one of the big biotech companies such as Monsanto, Zeneca or AgrEvo, to be tolerant of just one individual new weedkiller which



Skylarks have declined due to intensive farming

that company itself produces. These weedkillers - Monsanto's Roundup is the best known - are "broad spectrum" herbicides that, directly or indirectly, will kill everything in the field but the crops themselves.

The companies claim that less of them can be used, and so they are environmentally friendly, but the argument is

disingenuous as it confuses dosage with impact: the first might be less but the second is certainly greater.

The prospect of their widespread use is alarming to anyone who has watched the catastrophic decline, because of intensive farming practices, of once-familiar farmland birds such as the skylark, the partridge and the corn

bunting. And it is the reason for the remarkable call from the Government's own wildlife adviser, English Nature, and its sister agencies in Wales and Scotland, for a three-year moratorium on the commercial growing of GM crops until a proper assessment is made of the effects on wildlife of the deadly new herbicides they come with.

Neither English Nature nor any other government body has called for a moratorium on the consumption of GM food but the call for a delay in commercial crop planting has been misinterpreted, not least by the Tory leader, William Hague, in questioning Tony Blair a fortnight ago.

While the food issue is more emotive with the public - why should we trust your assurances that a new and untried foodstuff is safe when you misled us over BSE? - it is the Green Concrete argument that has the solid scientific backing.

MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

Lawrence friend in split with family

THE KEY witness to the murder of Stephen Lawrence is understood to be planning a breakaway anti-racist movement because he is disillusioned with the way the official campaign has been handled.

Duwayne Brooks's reported split from the broad-based civil rights movement due to be launched at a rally next month by the Lawrence family's barrister, Michael Mansfield QC, follows long-running frustrations with the campaign to date.

His friends say he has been suppressing his disillusion over the way the Lawrence campaign has been conducted and is now ready to act independently. He is understood to fear

BY CLARE GARNER

that Mr Mansfield's organisation will be remote from the south London community and will suffer from the presence of "too many" members of the political and legal elite.

The alternative, grassroots campaign being planned by Mr Brooks and his friends is called the Independent Civil Rights Movement and is to be launched next month, according to the *London Evening Standard*.

The strained relations between Mr Brooks and the Lawrence family surfaced on Tuesday night, just a week before Sir William Macpherson of Cluny is due to make public his



Duwayne Brooks, angry at the Lawrence family

report into the police handling of the affair.

They were all at a meeting following a performance at a London theatre of Richard Nor-



Mike Crabtree/Reuters

ton Taylor's *The Colour of Justice*, a drama based on the Lawrence inquiry.

Mr Brooks, 24, clashed with Stephen's father, Neville, and

fact that Mr Mansfield's wife, Yvette Vanson, co-produced the two-hour "factual dramatisation" entitled *The Murder of Stephen Lawrence*. He said he felt "very bitter".

Mr Brooks also attacked the family for failing to lend their support to a Movement for Justice march last Saturday, when more than 1,000 people walked from Brixton to Downing Street to demand government action over racist crime.

Mr Lawrence said: "I have never dictated to people what demonstration they should be on or events they should support. I have only ever advised people to support the things we are doing."

Mr Lawrence also ex-

pressed his support for the film, *The Murder of Stephen Lawrence*.

He said: "I was naturally concerned about having a film about our lives and about the murder of our son. But I think the film succeeds far better than I could ever have believed."

Stephen's mother, Doreen, said: "I hope that this film will in some way begin to show people what the last six years has been like for my family and I, and how, but for racism and shocking incompetence, it could all have been so easily avoided."

Mr Brooks, who was with Stephen when he was murdered, feels he has been ig-

nored by the Lawrence family. Earlier this year, he said that he blamed himself for Stephen's death. He said he regretted not forcing him to go to a different route home after they both went to Stephen's uncle's home.

At the private prosecution brought by the Lawrence family, Mr Brooks's identification evidence was ruled inadmissible by the judge, leading to the collapse of the case in 1996. He has suffered post-traumatic stress disorder and was too upset to give evidence at the public inquiry.

Mr Brooks's solicitor, Jane Deighton, said last night that he would not comment on the new campaign.

£450,000 for the cream of guitars

THE ROCK star Eric Clapton put a small part of his collection of classic electric guitars on show at Christie's in London yesterday ahead of a sale of 100 of the instruments this summer to raise money for charity.

Andy Fairweather-Low, a longtime member of Clapton's band, put 15 of them through their Slowhand paces for on-lookers. The guitars on show included "Brownie", the 1956 Fender Sunburst Stratocaster on which Clapton first played his classic song "Layla".

Fairweather-Low, a former singer with the Sixties pop band Amen Corner, played through "Cocaine", "Layla" and "I Shot the Sheriff".

Brownie is expected to raise £80,000 when it goes on sale in June in New York. Other guitars have been donated by musician friends including Mark Knopfler, lead guitarist with Dire Straits. Other instruments included a rare Gibson Explorer made in 1958, a 1974 Martin steel-string acoustic, and a 1956 Gibson, which Clapton has used since his early days with the band Cream.

BY PAUL MCCANN

Money from the auction will go to the Crossroads Centre in Antigua, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit founded by Clapton and named after the classic blues number by Robert Johnson, the alcoholic king of the Louisiana delta blues. It took Clapton 30 years to build his guitar collection but after selling 100 this summer he will still have 50 left to play.

The collection is expected to raise £450,000, but some of the guitars have a reserve price of as little as £1,000.

Clapton's collection features in one of the great rock and roll myths. According to the story, Steve Jones, from the Sex Pistols, was found passed out drunk by Clapton in a London club. Being a kind soul, Clapton took him home and laid him out on his sofa to sleep it off. When Jones awoke, he was struck by fear and momentary panic. He had looked up and all around was the greatest collection of guitars he had ever seen - so he assumed he had died and gone to Heaven.



Andy Fairweather-Low with 'Brownie', the 1956 Fender Sunburst Stratocaster on which Eric Clapton first played his classic song 'Layla'

Neville Elder

Virgin to end subscription fees for access to Internet

THE PRESSURE on Internet companies to offer free access intensified yesterday, with the announcement by Richard Branson's Virgin.net that from April its users will not have to pay the monthly £1.99 charge.

Virgin.net is the first company to reverse an established policy of charging a subscription, although start-up Internet companies have already followed the lead of Dixons' Freeserve, by which the user only pays the telephone charge while connected. But David Clarke, chief executive of Virgin, is certain his company will not be the last.

"I think they will all have to do the same," he said. "You can either keep the money yourself or pass it back to your customers - and we have decided to pass it back."

Virgin announced the move to its 150,000 subscribers in an overnight email. People who have already paid will be refunded, it said.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

Forgoing the charge will cost Virgin more than £21m annually, but the company hopes to make up for that by attracting a million subscribers within a year.

Other Internet companies denied they would follow Virgin's move, but Tim Pearson, chairman of the Internet Service Providers' Association (ISPA), commented: "There is pressure on the other paid-for ISPs. We are entering a period of instability which could end up with everybody going over to free services, but only a few of the providers making any money from them."

Virgin has joined at least five major groups now offering free Internet access. The key is Britain's 40-odd independently licensed telecoms companies, which provide the final link to the Internet from the national phone network.



Richard Branson: Plans to reverse policy

The companies earn money as people use their network - and if enough people use the otherwise "dark" optical fibre, the companies recoup their investment.

Last September, the High

Street store Dixons launched Freeserve, the first free-access service, in partnership with the Energis telecoms company. Since then Freeserve has acquired more than 900,000 subscribers - making it both the biggest and the fastest-growing ISP in the UK.

If Virgin can emulate that, it can raise its charges for advertising on its Web site. As part of a £50m investment, the Virgin group also intends to offer more electronic commerce services for Virgin products such as CDs, airlines and financial services.

However the move could be a costly mistake. The telecoms watchdog Ofcom will next week publish its opinion on whether the prices for calls which end on lines belonging to different telecoms companies should be changed.

That could reduce revenues to smaller companies - and cut the financial floor from under the free providers.

Compaq may offer free PCs

COMPAQ, THE world's largest computer-maker, has hinted it might offer free PCs to consumers in a move that could turn the industry on its head.

Eckhard Pfeiffer, president and chief executive, said it was looking at the idea, pioneered by Free-PC, a California-based company this month.

Mr Pfeiffer said: "We are the world market leader... and we are looking at what is happening here." The initiative could make PCs available in millions of homes that do not have them. Mr Pfeiffer's comments come a week after Free-PC rocked the industry by proposing to give away 10,000 computers. Customers will have to agree to spend at least

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

10 hours a week in front of their computer. Free-PC plans to pay for the cost of the PCs by permanently showing advertising messages and links to Internet sites on the screen.

The idea struck a chord with customers. In the past week about 500,000 users have registered for a computer with Free-PC by filling out a detailed questionnaire on their incomes and spending habits.

PC prices have been falling rapidly and basic machines are as little as \$600 (£375) in the US. But the notion of giving away hardware to sell more services has yet to be tested in the highly competitive PC market.

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Brussels insists duty free must end

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

BRUSSELS DROVE a nail into the coffin of duty-free shopping yesterday, rejecting calls from the biggest EU governments and the industry for even a temporary reprieve.

British ministers and campaigners immediately vowed to fight on, calling on Tony Blair and other EU heads of government to overrule the European Commission's recommendation that abolition should go ahead as planned at the end of June. EU diplomats said finance ministers could order the Commission back to the drawing board.

But ministers privately admit they have all but lost the fight for duty free. The focus is turning to its successor, Dawn Primarolo, the Paymaster General, said: "We need to make it clear the successor regime proposed by the Commission is fraught with problems."

"This is disappointing but it is not the end of the road," said Brenda O'Brien of the European Federation of Transport



The death knell sounds for duty-free shopping as the European commissioners reject British calls to delay the June date for abolition

Unions. "Clearly the Commission has scuffed the wishes of prime ministers by providing an incomplete picture of the impact on jobs and by refusing to seriously consider the pos-

sibility of an extension. It raises the question of who runs Europe. Is it the prime ministers or is it the unelected bureaucrats?"

In a long-awaited report the

Commission conceded that short-term job losses would flow from scrapping the tax concession, possibly as many as 53,000, about 5,000 of them in Britain. But Mario Monti, the

EU commissioner for the single market, said this was not enough to justify a change of plan.

He said duty free was a subsidy to one industry and was a

burden on all taxpayers. "We considered the possibility of a limited extension but we concluded, while this would of course help the profits of the companies concerned, it would

do very little for employment," Mr Monti said.

He dismissed claims that abolition of tax-free sales in the absence of harmonised VAT and excise would lead to farcical scenes on cross-channel ferries, with the price of alcohol changing four times as the ferry moved from one country's waters into another's.

He said that VAT will be levied at the rate applying in the country of departure. A ferry leaving Dover for Calais would

charge VAT at the British rate but the French rate would apply for the return.

But the rules are different for excise duty on drink and cigarettes. Here the rate to be charged is the rate applying in the country where the goods are loaded - the British rate in the case of a boat leaving Dover. But it changes as soon as the vessel or aircraft moves into new waters or airspace.

"At that point the operator of the service can either stop selling the goods, in which case there is no problem, or goods can continue to be sold - in which UK excise is applied," Mr Monti said.

Vic Moorecraft of P&O ferries said the rules were "unworkable". P&O accepted the 1991 decision abolishing duty free as a logical extension of a single market, but harmonised rates of VAT and excise had never materialised, he said.

The Commission's report now goes to EU finance ministers where a unanimous decision would be needed to reopen the file. Britain, Germany and France are backing a five-year extension but Denmark is hostile to any rethink.

As a gesture of solidarity with travellers, Mr Monti said he had agreed from the Commission to study the scrapping of the generous tax-free perks for commissioners on wine, spirits and cigarettes.

IN BRIEF

Firms spying on their workers

FIRMS ARE increasingly using surveillance on their workforce, ranging from closed circuit TV and infra-red transmitters to undercover staff, according to a new report. Techniques being used by employers represent an "alarming" threat to the privacy of workers, warned the Institute of Employment Rights.

Cigarette additive fear for young

A COALITION of health groups demanded the banning of additives that allegedly make the taste of cigarettes more appealing to children. Groups, including the British Medical Association, warned that sweetening additives could make cigarettes more palatable to under-16s.

Doctor cleared of assaults

DOCTOR PETER Thornton was cleared yesterday of six counts of indecently assaulting four women during medical examinations. Outside Nottingham Crown Court he said: "I am delighted to be completely vindicated." He had said his bedside manner was "direct and forthright".

British balloon starts mission

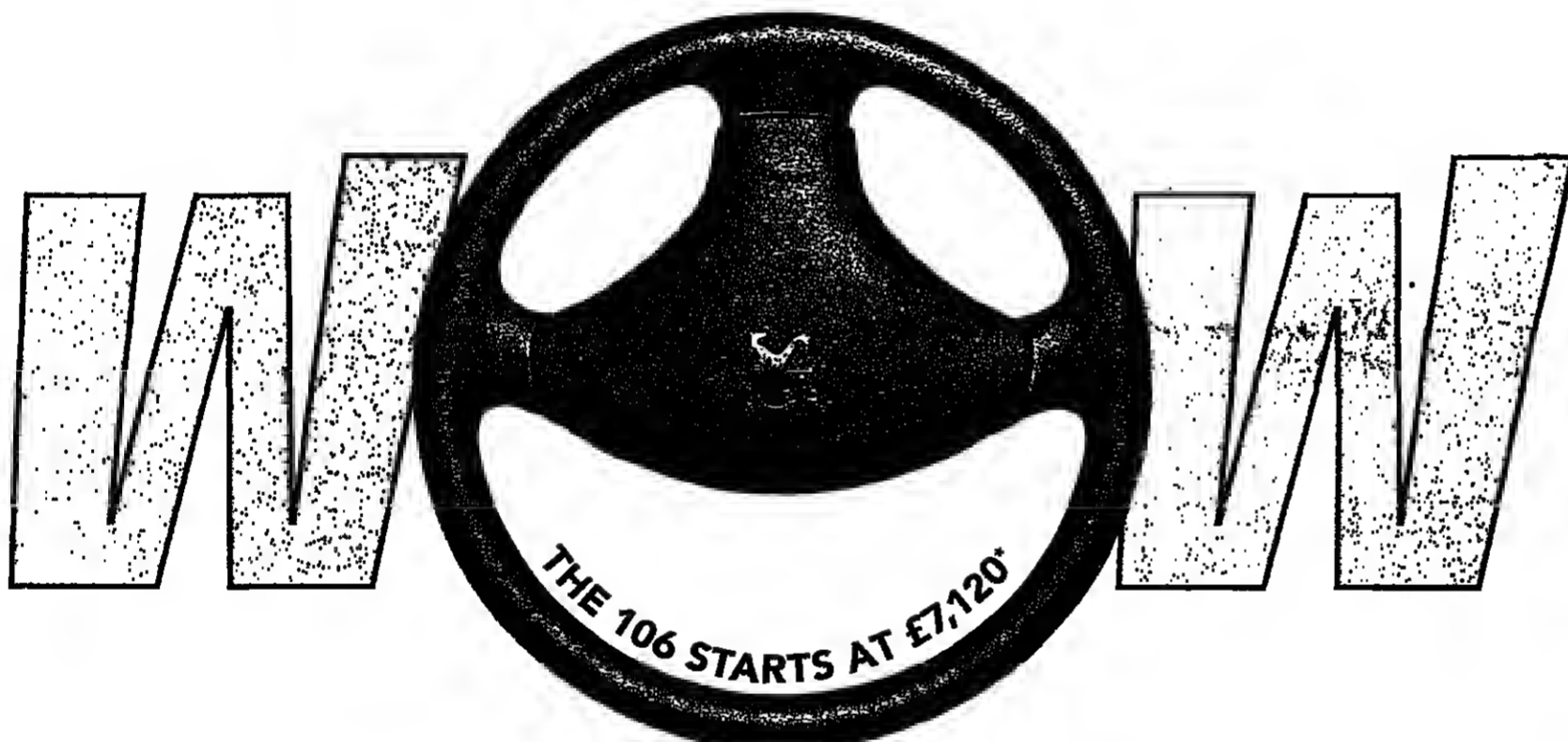
THE FIRST all-British balloon bid to circle the globe was launched from a golf course in Almeria, Spain yesterday. The pilot, Andy Elson, 45, and co-pilot, Colin Prescott, 48, hope to get far enough south to avoid Chinese airspace.

PAUL VALLEY



The US, the Pope said, 'bears the stamp of the culture of death'

IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



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Plans to cut coastguard under attack

By Philip Thornton
Transport Correspondent

THE CLOSURE of five coastguard stations would have a "serious impact" on safety at sea and must be cancelled, a cross-party committee of MPs reported yesterday.

The Select Committee for the Environment, Transport and the Regions warned that cutting costs should not be put ahead of saving lives.

The MPs also called on the Government to undo the merger of the Coastguard Agency and Marine Safety Agency, which was completed only nine months ago.

The newly formed Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) wants to close four of the 21 centres - at Liverpool, Oban in Argyllshire, Penland in Orkney, and Tyne - and merge two others, at Lee-on-the-Solent in Hampshire and Portland in Dorset, to create a new centre.

The MCA refused to comment on the MPs' report, but a well-placed source said that modern stations were a vast improvement on the "shabby" stations of previous decades.

"There has never been a



watch officers in the stations that remain might be overloaded with work, particularly in the event of a major incident, that threatened stations might be blighted and about the effect of the programme on staff."

The committee said the plan, which would lead to 78 job losses, would save only £500,000 and would be expensive to halt.

"The Coastguard is an extremely effective, and very cheap, service of which we should all be proud," the report said.

"We do not accept that now, when the number of incidents dealt with by the Coastguard is rising steeply when the average cost of responding to each incident has fallen so sharply and when our record compares so favourably with other countries, is the time to close maritime rescue co-ordination centres."

The MPs' report said local knowledge was "fundamental" for coastguards, helping them to respond quickly and well to incidents, thus saving lives.

"The closure programme, by requiring watch officers to cover more lengthy stretches of coastline, threatens to dilute



Tyne mouth coastguard station, alongside the remains of Tyne mouth Priory, is threatened with closure

Rod Wilson/North News

local knowledge to such an extent that its value will be reduced, with a potentially very serious impact on the performance of the Coastguard service."

The committee said it did not believe the MCA could deliver better safety and environmental protection at sea than the two branches of the service

separately. "We recommend that the two agencies should be merged and that the Coastguard Agency and MSA be re-established," it said.

"In doing so, the agencies and the Government should remember that the best way of protecting seafarers, vessels and the general public is not necessarily the cheapest way,

but the way which prevents pollution, ensures that ships do not get into difficulties in the first place, and above all saves lives."

The coastguards' workload has increased steadily. In 1987 they were involved in 5,563 incidents compared with 11,667 in 1997, a rise of 110 per cent. In 1997 they helped 16,684 people

compared with 8,867 in 1987, a 90 per cent rise. Over the same period, the number of lives lost remained constant, at about 250 a year and the cost of dealing with each incident fell.

The Public and Commercial Services Union said the report vindicated its opposition to the closure of coastguard stations. "We wholeheartedly endorse

the committee's recommendation to keep them open - it is the only sensible course of action. Ministers should now halt the closures before lives are put at risk."

Until the late 1970s there were coastguard watch posts every few miles. As technology improved, station numbers fell to 28 in 1979 and 21 today

GPs fear nurses' pay bill will cut drug use

THE DEPARTMENT of Health is investigating claims that family doctors will have to ration drugs to fund inflation-busting pay rises for nurses and other NHS staff.

Health authorities across Britain are warning they will have to reduce their drug budgets, leading to rationing, to meet the pay rises of 4.7 per cent for most nurses.

The investigation threatens to reopen the row over rationing of drugs, including Viagra, the anti-impotence drug, and expensive treatments such as Beta Interferon to relieve the symptoms of multiple sclerosis.

Morecambe Bay Health Authority was making budget cuts to reduce a £500,000 overspend on prescribing this year and warned it may cut deeper into the drug budget.

"We may even have to reduce the overspend by as much as 60 or 65 per cent," said the

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

health authority spokesman, Allan Muirhead.

In Manchester, the health authority is considering cuts in hospital services. A spokesman said: "This will have to come by not making investments in the waiting list initiative."

North West Anglia health authority was trying to save £1.5m in GP prescribing and would have to save an additional £1m to fund the pay rise.

In Wales, one health authority said the Welsh Office had allocated only 2.5 per cent extra for medical services. "It is going to be very difficult to maintain, develop or modernise services," said a spokesman for Bro Taf health authority.

Senior doctors in Gloucestershire said their local GPs' drugs budgets would be cut by 2 per cent, about £1m, double

the amount planned, because of the pay rises.

Ministers said claims in the survey by Pulse magazine would be investigated. But there was also ministerial anger at "shroud-waving" by health authorities to cause maximum embarrassment to the Government. "They have no reason to do this," said a senior ministerial source. "We provided enough for fair and affordable pay increases and the funds are there."

The Tory health spokesman, Ann Widdecombe, has challenged Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, to admit rationing is already going on. Her deputy, Alan Duncan, said: "The government lie machine has been rumbled. They are talking about big pay awards but they are squeezing health authorities to pay for them. Patient care is going to be hurt."

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Hughes hint over Lib Dem contest

THE LIBERAL Democrat MP Simon Hughes in effect threw his hat into the leadership ring to replace Paddy Ashdown this summer by ruling himself out of the race for mayor of London.

The MP for Southwark North and Bermondsey cleared the way for a bid when he said yesterday that he would not put his name forward for the mayoral job. Although he did not formally announce his intention to stand, he told *The Independent* that he would do if the leadership was his.

He would not tear up Mr Ashdown's deal with Tony Blair over closer co-operation, but would "call a pause" after the election. He would not accept a seat in a Labour government - which Mr Ashdown was prepared to do - unless the number of Liberal Democrat MPs was greatly increased.

"It would be wrong for any new leader to tear up this arrangement we have for this parliament. It is a contract... The issue is what position a new leader will take after the next election, and that should be open for consultation with the party."

Mr Hughes, who has to abide by rules forbidding a formal bid for the leadership until after the European elections in June, also said he would be prepared to work with "progressives", Labour or Tory.

On Britain's entry to the single European currency, he said the Liberal Democrats would back Labour in getting legislation through the Commons, against anti-European left-wing Labour MPs if necessary.

On taking a seat in a Labour cabinet, he said: "Unless you have a legitimate balance between the size of the two parties then it is dangerous for a

BY COLIN BROWN
AND PAUL WAUGH

small party, in terms of seats, to do a deal with a big party."

Charles Kennedy, front-runner for the Liberal Democrat leadership, has the backing of grandees, led by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and, in spite of Downing Street denials, it is claimed he would have Mr Blair's support to continue the modernisation "project" with Labour. Mr Kennedy has the edge with his high public profile but Mr Hughes will seek the support of the party rank and file, who have a one-member one-vote ballot.

Mr Hughes, the health spokesman, plans to mount his challenge with a policy pamphlet focusing on public services. Under his leadership he would seek to make the Liberal Democrats the party of opposition instead of the Tories.

Mr Hughes's move ends speculation about his intentions to become the Liberal Democrat candidate in May's London election. As a popular London MP he was viewed as his party's best hope for winning the contest for Britain's first directly elected mayor.

But he indicated that Mr Ashdown's decision to stand down had forced him to change his mind.

"I will this summer be involved in a party leadership election, whether or not as a candidate. I would not be able to commit myself wholeheartedly to either campaign if I tried to be involved in both," he said.

Mr Hughes is seen as the standard-bearer of the left wing of the Liberal Democrats and has warned of the dangers of Mr Ashdown's strategy of closer co-operation with Labour.



Rhodri Morgan, who is campaigning to be First Secretary of the Welsh Assembly, in Cardiff's docklands with the assembly building in the background

Rob Stratton

Morgan is promised 'major role' to end split

LABOUR WILL not win control of the Welsh Assembly this May unless it can heal the divisions caused by the party's bitter battle over who will be its First Secretary, the Welsh Office minister, Peter Hain, has warned.

Mr Hain said that Labour voters would not turn out unless the party "gets its act together" in the wake of the contest

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

between Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, and the backbencher Rhodri Morgan.

In an attempt to end the acrimony that has characterised the three-month race, Mr Hain revealed that, win or lose, Mr Morgan would be offered a "major role" in Labour's cam-

paign to win the Assembly election on 6 May.

As the Morgan and Michael camps put in their final efforts before the leadership ballot ends tomorrow, Mr Hain said he was confident that the Welsh Secretary would win "but it will not be by a mile".

The result, which will be announced on Saturday, is expected to be extremely close as

an electoral college of trade unions, MPs and assembly candidates decides who will stand for the first "Prime Minister of Wales".

Mr Hain poured scorn on speculation that Mr Morgan could stage a GLC-style "coup" to become First Secretary if he lost the leadership contest. Under this scenario, Labour rebels would team up with na-

tionalists to elect him despite Downing Street's wishes. "I would rule that out 300 per cent. There's not a cat in hell's chance of that happening. The Wales Labour Party is a very self-disciplined party. Wales post-May 1999 is not London post-May 1981," he said.

However, Mr Hain claimed that the events of the past year had resulted in the "biggest cri-

sis in its modern history" for the Wales Labour Party. Morale had to be restored after rows over twinning constituencies, MEP selection and the resignation of Ron Davies.

"I think we will need to do a lot of work in rebuilding morale and confidence in the grass roots of the party because that has been battered over the past year in Wales."



Straw: Young are betrayed

Straw condemns 'walk on by' society

JACK STRAW has called for the public to end the "walk on by" society and intervene when they see children committing crimes.

In an article in today's *New Statesman*, the Home Secretary suggests adults should not be afraid to tell off youngsters when they misbehave. He said that it was important

BY PAUL WAUGH

to set children clear standards and that everyone had a "mutual responsibility for the maintenance of order."

"Somewhere along the line we as a society started to feel that what other people's children got up to in public was none of our business - it was a job

solely for their parents or teachers or police officers," he writes.

"Today how many of us, seeing a group of 11 or 12-year-olds vandalising a phone box or picking on a younger child, would actually intervene? Yet if we do not, who will?"

Mr Straw said that he wanted the public to realise that

everyone had a role to play in confronting "the low-level disorder and disrespect" that leads on to more serious crime.

"If we want to live our lives free from crime, we must recognise that we all have a responsibility to help reduce it," he says.

"A 'walk on by' society betrays the interests of young

people. If we ignore young people when they are causing trouble, we start to ignore them when they are in danger."

"We all have an interest in children growing up into responsible members of the community. That can only happen if we support parents in setting clear standards of how they should treat others."



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Fewer seek college places in big cities

APPLICATIONS TO some of Britain's best-known universities have fallen by up to 11 per cent, confidential figures obtained by *The Independent* show. Oxford and Cambridge had increases but big city universities - Manchester, Sheffield, Leicester, Liverpool, King's College London and Newcastle - have had substantial falls.

Student leaders said the drop could be evidence of young people having to study nearer their homes to save money. Leading academics said the changes could be a result of the increasing popularity of vocational degrees.

The largest fall was at Thames Valley University, where applications have dropped by 19 per cent compared with last year in the wake of a damning inspection report.

Highly respected metropolitan universities are also feeling the squeeze. Applications to King's College London are down 11 per cent, and Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle all fell by between 9 and 10 per cent.

The largest rise was at De Montfort University in Leicester, where applications increased 19 per cent to 27,700.

Warwick University, which has outperformed Oxford and Cambridge in some higher education leagues, also recorded a substantial rise, with applications up 12 per cent to 26,517.

Overall figures published earlier show applications down 1.8 per cent after falls in the number of mature students and applicants from abroad.

The figures do not mean universities are in danger of under-recruiting. Under the Universities and Colleges Ad-

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

missions Service (Ucas), students can apply to up to six courses at different universities. At most large universities four students apply for each place on a degree course.

Yesterday Professor Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Liverpool University, said the changes may be due to the rise of work-related courses such as business studies and computer programming, which increasingly top the popularity polls.

He said: "If you look at the mix of subjects there are declines in the disciplines which universities have traditionally offered: subjects such as chem-

istry, physics, biology, history to a certain extent, and English.

"That is the sort of subject mix you get at the old, traditional universities. The growth has been in computer science, business and administration and software engineering; the sort of mix you get in the new universities.

"There has been a lot of publicity about the supposed advantages of taking vocational degrees and that has perhaps been picked up by teenagers who think these will offer them opportunities. We know from subjects like media studies that it is not always the case.

"You would think that with students paying for their studies, they would pay close attention to what universities were offering."

Keith Hicks, communications manager at the University of the West of England, Bristol, where applications were up 7 per cent, said: "People are now looking much more for vocational courses and are concerned about how employable they will be. We are increasingly getting questions at open days about where this is going to lead them, what the first, second and third destinations of graduates are."

Dr Jacqueline Henshaw, head of undergraduate admissions at Manchester University, said the fall was common to many northern universities.

She said: "The South-east is showing the greatest drop in applications. It looks as though people are less inclined to apply to institutions more than two hours or so away.

"Parents are saying they want little Johnny to stay near home. They do not want them on their doorstep, but they do not want them too far away."



Janet Oldroyd and her husband Neil tending their forced rhubarb which is eaten in top restaurants

John Furlong/Gazette

The new rhubarb emerges from an age of culinary darkness

BY DARIUS SANAI

JANET OLDROYD walks down the path through the middle of her darkened hangar, planting two candles, mounted on four-foot candlesticks, in the soil on either side. "It's very restful, isn't it?" she asks, with the smile of one who knows she has just converted somebody to an unlikely cause.

In the candlelight stand row upon row of gently glowing red stalks, topped by green leaves the size of a small hand, which seem to be whispering.

Ms Oldroyd is a fourth-generation grower of "forced" rhubarb at her family's market garden on a hillside above Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Rhubarb, which until recently

viewed with the turnip for the title of the world's least fashionable edible plant, is in the midst of a revival. And Ms Oldroyd is at the centre.

The rhubarb revival will be celebrated this weekend in Wakefield, historical home of forced rhubarb, with the first International Rhubarb Festival, at which chefs, horticulturalists and consumers will experiment with the plant.

The number of growers of forced rhubarb, which requires expensive and skilful rearing, fell from 200 some 30 years ago to just 15 last year. But the decline has been halted.

The food halls of Harvey Nichols, Harrods and Fortnum and Mason proudly display Oldroyd's forced winter rhubarb (which, as Ms Oldroyd explains, has the same relationship to ordinary rhubarb as Dom Perignon does to Babycham). A spokesman for Harvey Nichols said it is very "in" at the moment: sales have doubled in the past year.

Chefs and restaurateurs Marco Pierre White and Gordon Ramsay use forced rhubarb in their recipes. Marcus Wareing, a chef who has worked with Ramsay and is opening his own restaurant next month, says rhubarb will be part of his menu. "I love it,

and it's definitely becoming fashionable. As well as the classic rhubarb crumble, it makes beautiful chutneys and compotes, which you can serve with fois gras terrine."

As well as providing a nutritious food - rhubarb is high in calcium, potassium and fibre, and has only seven calories a stick - the revival is changing one of Britain's more unfortunate communities.

Wakefield, once part of Yorkshire's coal-mining industry, is blighted by high unemployment and the rootlessness of a new generation that has grown up to see all the region's traditional industries die. Amid the destruction, the rhubarb revival is

providing an unlikely glow of pride, and an influx of money, for a true Yorkshire way of life. Some 6,000 tourists a year come to Wakefield to visit the growing hangars.

A new generation is now staying within a business that could have been consigned to the area's slagheaps. "I'm definitely staying in the family business," says Ms Oldroyd's 20-year-old son, Lindsay, a business studies graduate. "You can combine modern techniques and tradition very successfully."

"All my mates used to take the mickey," he adds, standing by his father's BMW "but not now."

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Sacked church editor not going meekly

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

A LEADING religious newspaper is facing a boycott amid claims of "un-Christian behaviour" over the sacking of its editor.

Hugh Farmer, the editor of the *Scottish Catholic Observer*, was dismissed by Otto Herschman, chairman of the Catholic Herald group, who is a Papal Knight, an honorary title awarded by the Pope for services to the Church or society.

Mr Farmer's sacking apparently followed disputes over a liberal priest, a "too pious" nun and remarks made about a controversial priest, Father Noel Barry.

But Mr Farmer is not going meekly, and one of his most vocal supporters, Father Steve Gilhooley, an Edinburgh priest who opposes the blanket rule on celibacy for clergy, has instigated a boycott of the weekly newspaper. Mr Farmer, meanwhile, intends to fight his dismissal and intends to call Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of Scotland's Catholics, if the case goes to court.

The deeply conservative *Observer* has a circulation of about 45,000 - almost all picked up on Sundays as congregations leave mass.

The trouble started last summer when Mr Farmer resisted an edict to fire two columnists - Fr Gilhooley, 35, and a nun, Sister Mary Agnes, who was "too pious". "I had to sack Steve Gilhooley because he was too liberal and then I



Father Steve Gilhooley, who had his column dropped and who is backing Hugh Farmer, the paper's sacked editor

Colin McPherson

had to sack Sister Agnes, a cousin of Cardinal Winning, because she was too pious. The logic was just silly," Mr Farmer said. But he believes his fate was sealed just before Christmas when he publicly rebuked Fr Barry, who sued *The Sun* newspaper and won substantial damages over a report implying a sexual affair. Fr Barry, an aide to Cardinal Winning, had "acandalised the church", Mr Farmer said.

When the Austrian-born Mr Herschman visits the Scottish arm of the publishing company, he dines with Fr Barry, who is reportedly a friend. Mr Farmer, 62, is determined to fight the Herald Group decision to sack him and is taking legal advice. "I will be bringing members of the hierarchy to speak on my behalf about my stewardship at the *Observer* and one of those people could well be the Car-

dinal," he said. Fr Gilhooley said: "To behave like this towards Hugh, after all he has done for the paper, is, let's say, less than Christian. People should boycott the *Observer* until this is sorted out."

Sales of the paper at Fr Gilhooley's Church of Our Lady in Currie dropped from 40 to one or two after his column was scrapped. Mr Herschman was not prepared to discuss the issue, let alone the biblical parallels. Contacted at the *Observer's* Glasgow office, he declined to comment yesterday.

Faithful pray to God the Mother

FOR CENTURIES Christians have prayed to God the Father, but now a new Methodist worship book has moved with the times - and decided to call God Mother.

The controversial prayer, which addresses God "our Father and our Mother", makes the Methodists the first mainstream Christian denomination in this country to depart from the traditional language used to describe God in its liturgy.

The Methodists claim there is nothing radical in calling God Mother: referring to descriptions by the 14th-century English writer, Julian of Norwich, and Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 66, which says: "as one whom his mother comforteth, so I shall comfort you".

At yesterday's launch of the Methodists' first collection of liturgy for nearly 25 years, the Rev Neil Dixon stressed that God was neither male nor female.

"God is not a person. God is spirit and without gender. The fact that we've used male imagery so extensively has in a sense reinforced the picture of God as a man, and the fact that Jesus is male has done that as well but, if all human beings are created in God's image, feminine as well as masculine attributes must reflect God's nature," he said.

The Rev Norman Wallwork, another member of the committee that has been working on the liturgy for the past eight years, said: "Usage always informs the church eventually. The fact that inclusive language and inclusive imagery is around in the secular world is inevitably something the churches are going to capture. While the world isn't going to write the agenda, the church isn't going to resist rediscovery."

THE METHODIST PRAYER

God our Father and our Mother,
we give you thanks and praise
for all that you have made,
for the stars in their splendour
and the world in its wonder
and for the glorious gift of human life.
With the saints and angels in heaven
we praise your holy name.

BY CLARE GARNER
Religious Affairs Correspondent

ering something that was already in its bloodstream."

The idea of introducing God as Mother into the liturgy was first floated in 1992. The idea was dropped after gaining little support. Last year the Methodist Conference, the governing body of the country's one million Methodists, decided to reinstate the phrase.

The Methodists have also introduced a clause that allows a woman to be "presented for marriage" as opposed to "given away". The man may also be "presented for marriage" by a friend or relative.

"It was thought it was time to move away from the bride being given away by her father as if she was a medieval thing who belonged to her father's family," said Mr Wallwork. "Therefore the bride and the groom are both 'presented' in a totally equal way."

The Methodists' marriage service has been subject to further changes. The 1975 version said: "According to the teaching of Christ, marriage is the life-long union in body, mind and spirit, of one man and one woman."

In the 1999 version, the wording is: "It is the will of God that, in marriage, husband and wife should experience a life-long unity of heart, body and mind." The word "should" may be interpreted as reflecting the lenient approach adopted by Methodists towards marrying those whose former marriages have failed.

The Church of England has taken a leaf out of business textbooks in an effort to attract more "customers". Jayne Ozone, a market researcher, will carry out focus groups in 20 dioceses to establish what the church's "customers" want.

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'Still the greatest,' they chanted. Yet Ali could hardly raise a wave

BY DAVID LISTER

THERE WAS a moment in Muhammad Ali's cavalcade procession through Brixton yesterday that captured in an instant the joy and poignancy of the occasion.

Young and old lined Brixton Road and some ran alongside his green, open-topped 1930 Bentley. One girl waved a banner that read: "Ali Still The Greatest". Inside the car Ali had not moved; his face remained utterly impassive.

But as the cheering reached a climax he raised an arm to wave. It moved painfully slowly and only up to his waist. Then, equally slowly and painfully he brought it down. And he did not try to repeat the gesture.

Ali was meeting the leaders of Jubilee 2000 in south London. He is helping to spearhead their international campaign for world leaders to write off the debts of the poorest Third World countries. At the Brits the night before he had received a special award for his work. On neither occasion did he utter a word in public.

In Brixton, the traditional centre of London's black community, Ali remains a hero two decades after his boxing triumphs and almost as long after his physical descent into frailty caused by Parkinson's disease. His car, escorted by mounted police, drove up and down Brixton's main street to the cheers of a still adoring public.

One man in dreadlocks came out with his two sons, 13 and 14, also with dreadlocks. He said his name was Fred, a name to which he was clearly attached, as both his sons were also called Fred. In Brixton not everyone likes to give their real name. It was a joke that Ali would have laughed at once.

There lies one of the biggest changes in the man. Heavy-jowled, impassive, silent and



serious, the biggest contrast is not with Ali the once-nimble and super-fit, but with Ali the joker: the man who in the Sixties and Seventies performed verbal somersaults, recited impromptu poetry and smiled at his own audacity as he danced the Ali Shuffle before delivering a knock-out punch.

From the present-day Ali there is no sign of a joke, no hint of laughter. When he received his award at the Brits he did not smile.

Throughout his Brixton procession he did not smile. Only when he ponderously left the car to go into the church hall for his meeting did he surprise onlookers by performing a magic trick, making a handkerchief disappear. Perhaps that's as near as one will get to the old Ali.

It did not matter; not to the crowds yesterday who had come out to see a legend, a campaigner and a role model, not a joker, not even a boxer. It was 13-year-old Fred II who said: "He is a role model for me. He is a success. He shows what you can do." Edwin, 13, added: "My dad looked up to him. He is the greatest fighter of all time. He is a role model for the black community."

John, 29, said: "I'm here to support him over dropping the debt. I believe this debt is a great disadvantage to black people. You can never develop. Plus, Ali is a great man, he believes in principles and he was persecuted for them."

Perhaps he was referring to Ali's Islamic beliefs, perhaps to his imprisonment for refusing to fight in Vietnam in the Sixties. Perhaps, with many others, he has been entranced by



The old days of glory (left) and Muhammad Ali's poignant parade through the cheering streets of south London yesterday Tom Pilston

the Ali portrayed in *When We Were Kings*, the film of his Seventies fight in Africa with George Foreman, the rumble in the jungle. It was "Ali Boom-bayay", the African chant from that film, which resounded down Brixton Road.

Earlier, Ali laid a wreath at London's anti-slavery monument in Victoria Tower Gardens to show his support for the campaign. At the park, near Westminster, he was met by six children, said to represent the lives of the seven million children which could be saved by 2000, if Third World debts were cancelled.

The six children and Ali took part in a one-minute silence at the monument, before the singer Jacqui Manning sang a version of Bob Marley's "Redemption" song.

Ali, in a vivid multi-coloured jumper and navy blue trousers, kissed the youngsters before joining them at the monument to lay green and yellow wreaths of roses and lilies. Ron DiNicola, Ali's lawyer and agent, said: "It's a terrific honour for him to be in England, a country he loves and a country he has had a warm, long-standing relationship with."

Vera, a middle-aged Brixton housewife, said simply: "He is a good man. And he's not looking bad at all considering the sickness he has been through. I used to sit up overnight to watch his fights."

Railway protests up 25% on year

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

THE RAIL industry was warned yesterday it must reduce customer dissatisfaction after complaints soared by 25 per cent. Chris Bolt, the Rail Regulator, said 540,000 complaints were registered by the 25 companies from April to October 1998, compared with 433,000 in the similar period in 1997.

A spokesman for the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions said: "Train companies must listen to what their passengers are telling them and take action to reduce dissatisfaction."

Heavy pressure is now on the industry to present a concrete plan to improve performance at next Thursday's summit called by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Jon Carter, acting national director of the Central Rail Users Consultative Committee, said the rise in complaints mirrored the failure to improve performance in train services.

The Association of Train Operating Companies said the regulator had recognised the increase in gripes was partly due to an improvement in complaint procedures. James Gordon, its director general, said: "The increasingly customer-focused train operators are very keen to have customers' comments."

The biggest increase in written complaints per number of miles travelled, 158 per cent, was at North West Trains. LTS Rail had a 137 per cent rise. Mr Bolt said LTS Rail resolved just 49 per cent of complaints within 20 working days.

There was a little good news for Virgin. Complaints on its flagship West Coast franchise between London and Glasgow fell 3 per cent. But Virgin had the most complaints, with 104,582 letters out of a total of 356,476 and 51,538 telephone protests out of 235,068.

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The day had begun with a flurry of pre-dawn activity, first with the arrival of the Labour peer, Lord Rea, a Kurdish sympathiser and member of the parliamentary human rights group. He met the hostage-takers. This was followed hours later by the decision of a man



Peter Macdonald

As the afternoon wore on, the veteran left-wing MP Tony Benn arrived to speak to the protesters through an inter-
preter.

Mr Benn said he had written to the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, demanding he immediately make clear Britain's position towards the Kurds. The Labour backbencher said: "History has shown time and time again that conflict of this character can only be resolved by political talks."

thony Wills said: "We are relatively optimistic. There is no reason to be anything other. "We are hopeful of a positive solution but we are prepared for the long game. The opinion of those in charge of the operation is that the patient game is the best option."

Chief Supt Wills said police were also satisfied that the sole hostage, a Greek caretaker, Babis Pastsouris, was not in any danger.

The protesters' demands are not clear. While they have spoken of a desire to explain their situation, they have also

requested a meeting with up to four unnamed MPs. They have also talked of a delegation to try to secure the safety of Abdullah Ocalan, but not given any details.

The legend of Mr Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) referred to by

some Kurds as "Apo" or Ucdi, whose seizure by the Turkish authorities early on Tuesday sparked the storming of Greek embassies across Europe, has been the dominant factor at the protest. Protesters have erected a huge banner bearing his portrait while the crowd of up-

to 500 - regularly swelled by coachloads by Kurdish communities from around London - have been chanting his name. "He is not the best chance for the Kurds, he is the only hope," said one 21-year-old man, wrapped in a red, green and yellow Kurdish flag, who

Suleyman Coskun: 'To overcome you we burn ourselves'

'Daddy, we're burning daily'

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE,
KIM SENGUPTA
AND JOHN DAVISON

was well aware of the cruelty being inflicted on the Kurds and of their suffering. "Our power is not enough to take it out or take revenge. When you do not

Both the sisters are pupils at the White Hart Lane school, in north London.

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Turkish security officers flank the Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan, strapped to his seat, on his flight from Kenya to Istanbul.

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So Is PLO-style terrorism about to engulf Europe?
Possibly. With no hope of winning the war against Turkey and its leader facing execution, the PKK may resort to desperate measures. There are tens of thousands of disaffected Kurds in Europe who may now turn to the PKK.

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Jones case is far from over

JUST WHEN it might have seemed that the President's political travails were over, he may now be facing a further legal ordeal.

Bill Clinton could be heading for trouble over his misleading testimony to the sexual harassment case brought by the former Arkansas state employee Paula Jones, which sparked the long and painful impeachment process.

Mr Clinton has admitted that his testimony was misleading, and the judge in the Jones case said late on Tuesday that she might bring proceedings against him for contempt of court.

"I believe that now is the time for the court to address the contempt issue," said Judge Susan Webber Wright in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"With the exception of the President, I have not been able to single out individuals who might be in contempt."

The Jones case was dismissed by the judge, but appealed by Ms Jones. She then settled out of court with Mr

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Clinton for \$850,000. But the case had, by then, placed him in deep trouble.

Among the witnesses listed in the case was a certain Monica Lewinsky, and it was this which led inexorably to Mr Clinton's impeachment last year.

But a sitting President probably cannot be arrested, or forced to go to court - that is why impeachment exists - so it is unclear what will happen to Mr Clinton even if the case is brought.

One possibility is that he will be disbarred from practising law again.

The contempt case is just one of a series of possible legal actions that could flare up in the President's remaining two years in office.

Impeachment may be over, but a welter of possible other cases could keep lawyers busy well into the next millennium.

What the future holds for Hillary, Review front



John King arriving at Jasper county courthouse yesterday Michael Stravato/AP

DNA 'links suspect' to race murder

A FEW drops of blood were likely to become the centrepiece of a racially charged murder trial in Texas yesterday.

James Byrd Jr, 49, was dragged to death behind a pickup truck in a brutal killing that shocked America. Blood was found on the shoes of John King, 24, one of three suspects on trial in Jasper, a small town of 8,000 people. DNA evidence to be presented yesterday at the county courthouse showed that it was Mr Byrd's blood, the prosecution was to argue. Saliva on cigarette butts and beer bottles also showed that Mr King was present at the scene of the crime, it was claimed.

BY ANDREW MARSHALL

Mr Byrd and the other suspects - Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry, 32 - had planned the killing in advance to spearhead the creation of a racist group, the prosecution claimed as it opened the trial on Tuesday. They cited conversations the suspects had in prison, tattoos on the suspects and items found near the body.

Sheriff Billy Rowles told the court: "I'm a brand-new sheriff. I didn't even know the definition of a hate crime, but I knew somebody had been murdered because he had been black. Once we saw the KKK [Ku-Klux-Klan] emblem on the cigarette lighter, that's when we started having some bad thoughts."

Mr King is being tried first, by a jury that includes one black man, and could face execution by lethal injection if convicted. He pleaded not guilty. His lawyer, Haden "Sonny" Cribbs, did not make an opening statement.

The prosecution told the court that Mr King had been trying to recruit for a new group he called the "Texas Rebel Soldiers," an offshoot of the Confederate Knights of America, a group linked to the Ku-Klux-Klan. Papers around

his apartment showed he planned to start the group on July 4: the killing was on July 7. Mr King "needed to do something dramatic that would attract media attention," said the prosecutor, James Gray.

If that was his intention then he has succeeded. The trial has brought reporters from across America. And the Ku-Klux-Klan has used the incident to hold rallies in Jasper. That has prompted counter-demonstrations by black groups such as the New Black Panthers. Judge Joe Bob Golden has banned protests within two blocks of the courtroom, but there are still fears that the trial will turn into something even worse than it is already: the excuse for a fight.

Race-related killings are horrifyingly common in the US, but the Jasper case has hit the headlines more than most. It is partly the sheer violence of the killing. Mr Byrd was alive and conscious when he was dragged to his death. An examination of his body showed he had tried to keep his head off the road. But his head and arm were torn off. The other factor is the suspicion that this was part of a broader plot, linked to the far-right organisations that have deep roots in the east Texas area.

Honduras maps its new country

IN TERMS of world attention, last year's Hurricane Mitch put Honduras on the map. But the floods and landslides nearly wiped the little Central American nation off it.

So great was the damage cartographers are redrawing the map of the country. Mitch widened rivers, wiped away entire villages, killed more than 5,000 people and forced hundreds of thousands to relocate.

"The hurricane changed the course of rivers and disrupted the geographical situation of numerous highways, railways and the location of human settlements," said Noel Pinada Porillo, head of the country's National Geographical Institute, which is about to start the project.

Light aircraft, which have just completed distributing aid around the country, will be

BY PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

flown again to take photographs that will be used as a basis for the new national map.

They will concentrate on banana-producing areas in the north and south and near the Nicaraguan border, where five days of torrential post-Mitch rains did the worst damage.

In the northern area around Trujillo tidal waves wiped out entire towns, extending the coast inland by up to a mile in some places. The main road through the coastal town of Santa Rosa de Aguan now looks like a river after the Caribbean ocean split inland.

In the capital, Tegucigalpa, the Choluteca river burst its banks and, more than three months later, is still several times wider than it was before.

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Serbian veto delays a deal

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

KOSOVO PEACE negotiations moved to a cliff-hanging finale last night as President Slobodan Milosevic refused to permit Nato troops on Yugoslav soil - a veto that in theory could unleash Western air strikes as early as this weekend.

The Yugoslav leader made his stand on Tuesday when he met Christopher Hill, the US diplomat who has been leading efforts to broker a settlement between Belgrade and the ethnic Kosovo Albanians at the talks at Rambouillet near Paris. But diplomats from the leading powers, who have set a deadline of noon on Saturday for agreement, remained hopeful a deal could be reached. They believed Mr Milosevic would hold out to the last moment before signing.

But his sudden stand was an unwelcome setback to the possible trade-off that had been shaping up. The Albanians, however reluctantly, would drop their demands for a specific promise in the three-year interim agreement of a subsequent referendum, assuring them of ultimate independence.

In return, Yugoslavia would accept Nato peace-keepers. The Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, was in Rambouillet earlier this week, trying to sweeten the pill by promising that Russia, Serbia's main sympathiser in the six-nation Contact Group of major powers, would contribute to the force.

Plans are all but ready for up to 30,000 Nato troops to move into the Serbian province to underpin a deal guaranteeing Kosovo broad autonomy, with its own elected parliament and police force. Once the latter was installed, Yugoslavia would keep only 1,500 troops in the province, to guard its external borders. The Kosovo Liberation Army, which has conducted an 18-month guerrilla war, would be disbanded.



Romanian police and a protester in Stoenesti yesterday, when miners tried to reach the capital

Miners' leader held after bloody clashes

THE MAN who nearly brought Romania to its knees last month was arrested yesterday after clashes between riot police and coal miners that left one miner dead, dozens injured and 350 arrested.

The arrest of the miners' leader, Miron Cozma, came as he and 2,000 comrades headed to the capital, Bucharest, to protest against an 18-year sentence imposed on him this week for his role in a violent 1991 miners' protest. The Justice Minister, Valeriu Stoica, said: "It is an act of justice. I am glad police managed to apply the [court's] sentence."

BY ADAM LEBOR
Central Europe Correspondent

Thousands of striking miners marched on Bucharest last month in protest against the closure of mines and falling standards of living. The miners' march was stopped only after President Emil Constantinescu sent in tanks and troops to halt their advance.

Cozma unsuccessfully resisted officers who arrested him yesterday after the car he was in stopped for petrol near Caracal, 30 miles from Bucharest, the mayor of Caracal, George Anghel, was

quoted as saying by Rompres news agency.

The miners began their latest protest after Cozma was sentenced in absentia on Monday for leading the 1991 march. He said the sentence, increased from 18 months, was politically orchestrated.

In clashes that lasted three hours in the village of Stoenesti, 90 miles from Bucharest, 2,000 riot police beat miners with clubs, fired rubber bullets and threw tear-gas grenades, leaving dozens injured. Miners attacked officers with chains, axes and sticks, the Interior Ministry said.

Police arrested 350 miners who were trying to reach the capital in 40 buses, national radio reported. Other miners fled and police troops were combing the area.

The Interior Minister said he did not expect any more outbreaks of violence from miners. Police would use real bullets in future protests, said Anghel Andreescu, the head of one police department.

Mr Constantinescu thanked police and troops for preventing the miners from reaching Bucharest and for "defending a state where the law is respected".

Spanish eyes smile on colonial friends

FRONTLINE
GIBRALTAR

THE FRONTIER between Spain and Gibraltar does not bristle with jumpy, rifle-toting guards. Few approach those drab little border controls with apprehension in their hearts. On the Spanish side rough-looking men and women hang around - as you would expect at any frontier post worth its salt - gulping hot coffee and fat goblets of brandy against the morning chill at Peco's stand-up bar. But most are doing nothing more sinister than waiting for the bus to Algeciras.

On the Gibraltar side, a rosy-cheeked bobby with a West Country burr directs you politely to the interminable queue of cars waiting to get out.

Many in the queue are Spaniards on their regular cheap-petrol run, or Gibraltarians eager to check on their properties along the coast. Pedestrians rarely wait much except at rush hour, when some 2,000 Spaniards employed on the Rock queue to get home for dinner.

The tension, when it flares, comes from Madrid and London. Here on the border, Gibraltarians and Spaniards get on fine. For centuries they have been trading, smuggling, marrying each other and jumbling up their languages. Mostly they like each other.

Jose Gomez, from the scruffy Spanish border town of La Linea, has been crossing every day for 15 years to work in a hotel bar on the Rock.

Francis, who runs a pharmacy in Gibraltar's Main Street, is married to Kathy, an elegant Spanish woman from La Linea. They cross to Spain several times a week so the children can see their grandparents. On this occasion he is braving the queue to deal with some paperwork for a flat he has bought "across the road".

The Spanish government

recently called Gibraltar's colonial status a ridiculous anachronism, and described it as an "economic parasite". But Jose, and thousands like him, strongly disagrees.

"Gibraltar is like a factory for us. There is no bigger employer for miles around. No one in La Linea wants Gibraltar to become Spanish," he insists.

Jose was among some 2,000 La Linea residents who noisily protested against Madrid at the weekend for tightening screws on Gibraltar. The workers are angry that their jobs

of the British colony. For centuries the people of the town trudged across the causeway to service the Imperial garrison on the Rock. When Franco closed the border in 1967 he choked off the city's lifeline. "He built a factory along the bay that closed within weeks," Jose recalls bitterly, "and a football pitch in full view of the Rock, to make Gibraltarians think we were prospering."

Francis, his week-old BMW gleaming in the queue, remembers how his father struggled to keep the pharmacy going during the 18-year blockade that followed. He believes Gibraltar could survive as a banking and business centre if Spain opened up and Britain "were generous with opportunities". But few are so confident.

Gibraltar's anxiety is that London will cast it aside now that its historic usefulness is gone and good relations with Spain become the more pressing need. Fearing that Britain's commitment will wane, the Gibraltarians plead for reassurance that they won't be abandoned, sensitive to any equivocal silence.

Anachronistic they may be, but Gibraltarians say it is not their fault that Britain's 300-year colonial rule made them what they are: neither Spanish nor British, but Mediterranean Latins steeped in generations of British customs, education and habits of government. At home in neither country, they cling to the identity they have.

Across the road, back at the bar that faces British sovereign territory, Peco breaks me off a sprig from a bunch of olive leaves in a tumbler on the counter. Is this a peace offering? I joke, in Spanish. He's non-committal and replies, in English: "One more coffee? Before the bus comes."

ELIZABETH NASH



Gibraltar provides jobs for about 2,000 Spaniards

on the Rock are threatened, fearing greater hardship in this impoverished area where unemployment is 40 per cent, the highest rate in Spain.

La Linea's conservative mayor, Jose Antonio Fernandez Pons, last week urged Madrid to aid his "totally stagnant" town. "La Linea and Gibraltar are linked by blood and geography," says Mr Pons. "We need mutual understanding on a day-to-day basis. The prosperity of the area depends on it. We've always been ignored by the central government in its policy towards Gibraltar. Now we want compensation from Madrid for the hardship we're suffering."

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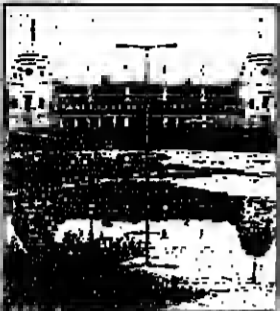
BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Coats sells Dynacast for £322m

COATS VIVELLA, the textiles group, has sold Dynacast, its precision engineering division, to a management buyout backed by Civen free of debt for £322m cash. Dynacast, based in Alcester, makes components in metal and plastics for the car, telecoms and computer industries. It has 37 factories in 19 countries, and employs 6,000 people. Dynacast made operating profits of £30m and accounted for 23 per cent of group profits in 1997, but was earmarked for sale in December. The proceeds will be used to reduce group debt, Coats chairman Sir David Alliance said.

Second strike at Wembley



WEMBLEY, the leisure group that owns the famous London football stadium, said yesterday it had received an approach from a second potential bidder. The company is rumoured to be SFX Entertainment, a US venue and entertainment group thought to have been in talks with Wembley's bankers.

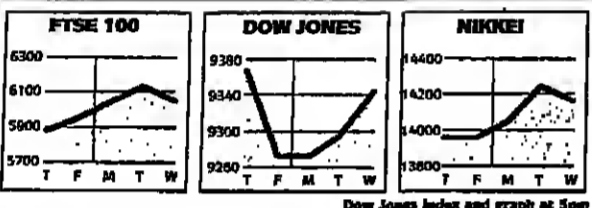
Wembley has already received an approach from Enic, the group that owns stakes in several European football clubs. Any deal could jeopardise Wembley's plans to sell the stadium in a £103m redevelopment deal.

Elsewhere in football, Leicester City said a board member had received an informal approach about a possible bid. Millwall Holdings has raised £300,000 via a share placing.

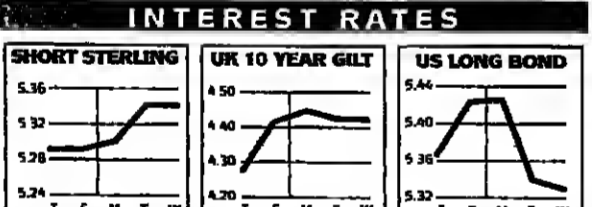
Tietmeyer proposes stability group

HANS TIETMEYER, Bundesbank president, is expected to propose at Saturday's G7 meeting that a new "financial stability forum" should oversee world financial markets. He is said to favour creating a committee of officials from G7 finance ministries and central banks. The committee - expected to be headed by Andrew Crockett, Bank for International Settlements head - would meet twice a year.

STOCK MARKETS

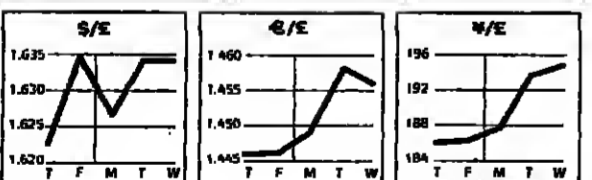


| Index | Close | Change | Change (%) | 52 wk High | 52 wk Low | Yield (%) |
|-----------------|----------|---------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100 | 6078.40 | -30.20 | -0.49 | 6195.60 | 4599.20 | 2.83 |
| FTSE 250 | 5174.50 | -26.40 | -0.51 | 5970.90 | 4247.60 | 3.23 |
| FTSE 350 | 2878.50 | -14.40 | -0.50 | 2969.10 | 2210.40 | 2.72 |
| FTSE All Share | 2792.30 | -13.09 | -0.47 | 2886.52 | 2143.53 | 2.76 |
| FTSE SmallCap | 2250.50 | 2.40 | 0.11 | 2793.80 | 1834.40 | 3.60 |
| FTSE Fledgling | 1228.70 | -0.20 | -0.02 | 1517.10 | 1046.20 | 4.41 |
| FTSE AIM | 822.60 | -2.90 | -0.35 | 1146.90 | 781.30 | 1.16 |
| FTSE Europe 100 | 2747.64 | -28.00 | -1.01 | 3029.27 | 2018.15 | 2.12 |
| FTSE Europe 300 | 1197.51 | -11.90 | -0.98 | 1332.07 | 890.63 | 2.00 |
| Dow Jones | 9342.89 | 46.12 | 0.50 | 9647.96 | 7400.30 | 1.64 |
| Nikkei | 14158.67 | -73.97 | -0.52 | 17352.35 | 12787.90 | 1.03 |
| Hang Seng | 9402.39 | -23.03 | -0.24 | 11926.16 | 6544.79 | 3.73 |
| Dax | 4810.09 | -94.59 | -1.93 | 6217.83 | 3833.71 | 1.78 |
| S&P 500 | 1246.31 | 4.57 | 0.37 | 1283.64 | 923.32 | 1.27 |
| Nasdaq | 2300.59 | -13.28 | -0.57 | 2533.44 | 1357.09 | 0.30 |
| Toronto 300 | 6394.80 | 16.32 | 0.13 | 7837.70 | 3340.96 | 1.66 |
| Brazil Bovespa | 9062.79 | 110.39 | 1.23 | 13339.14 | 4375.69 | 6.04 |
| Belgium Bel20 | 3375.08 | -28.75 | -0.83 | 3713.21 | 2661.65 | 2.10 |
| Amsterdam Eux | 514.15 | -8.69 | -1.66 | 600.65 | 366.58 | 1.91 |
| France CAC 40 | 3985.49 | -66.83 | -1.69 | 4404.94 | 2881.21 | 2.03 |
| Milan MBSE | 33561.00 | -188.00 | -0.59 | 39170.00 | 24175.00 | 1.22 |
| Madrid Iboex 35 | 3737.90 | -1.40 | -0.01 | 10589.80 | 6869.90 | 1.90 |
| Irish Overall | 5238.05 | -72.41 | -1.36 | 5581.70 | 3733.37 | 1.50 |
| S Korea Comp | 551.77 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 651.95 | 273.27 | 0.06 |
| Australia ASX | 2882.20 | 22.80 | 0.80 | 2948.70 | 2386.70 | 3.19 |



| Index | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 30 year | Yr chg |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| UK | 5.44 | -0.07 | 5.27 | -0.20 | 4.42 | -1.50 |
| US | 5.00 | -0.63 | 5.25 | -0.41 | 4.99 | 0.45 |
| Japan | 0.32 | -0.53 | 0.33 | -0.49 | 2.04 | 0.09 |
| Germany | 3.09 | -0.42 | 3.03 | -0.72 | 3.90 | -1.03 |

CURRENCIES



| Index | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 30 year | Yr chg |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| US | 1.6345 | +0.276 | 1.6333 | 0.6118 | -0.109 | 0.6123 |
| EURO | 1.4552 | -0.436 | 1.4079 | 0.8906 | -22.81c | 0.8573 |
| YEN | 194.79 | +0.04 | 206.87 | 119.00 | +0.04 | 126.57 |
| £ index | 101.40 | 0.00 | 104.80 | 106.50 | 0.00 | 109.10 |

OTHER INDICATORS

| Index | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 30 year | Yr chg |
|----------------|---------|---------|--------|------------|---------|--------|
| Brent Oil (\$) | 9.82 | -0.11 | 13.84 | 115.40 | 3.00 | 112.04 |
| Gold (\$) | 285.25 | 0.10 | 297.45 | 163.40 | 2.40 | 159.57 |
| Silver (\$) | 5.39 | -0.28 | 7.22 | Base Rates | 5.50 | 7.25 |

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

| Country | Rate | Country | Rate |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Australia (\$) | 2.4898 | Mexican (nuevo peso) | 14.80 |
| Austria (schillings) | 19.48 | Netherlands (guilder) | 3.1226 |
| Belgium (francs) | 57.28 | New Zealand (\$) | 2.9158 |
| Canada (\$) | 2.3855 | Norway (krone) | 12.35 |
| Cyprus (pounds) | 0.8198 | Portugal (escudos) | 282.91 |
| Denmark (kroner) | 10.60 | Saudi Arabia (rials) | 5.9558 |
| Finland (markka) | 8.4554 | Singapore (\$) | 2.6310 |
| France (francs) | 9.3094 | South Africa (rand) | 9.6400 |
| Germany (marks) | 2.7855 | Spain (pesetas) | 235.77 |
| Greece (drachma) | 457.86 | Sweden (krona) | 12.70 |
| Hong Kong (\$) | 12.30 | Switzerland (franc) | 2.2761 |
| India (rupees) | 62.54 | Thailand (baht) | 54.55 |
| Israel (shekels) | 6.1275 | Turkey (lira) | 544404 |
| Italy (lira) | 2758 | USA (\$) | 1.5994 |
| Japan (yen) | 190.50 | | |
| Malaysia (ringgits) | 5.9506 | | |
| Malta (lira) | 0.6137 | | |

Rates for information purposes only SOURCE: Thomas Cook

Jobless total at 19-year low despite slowdown

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

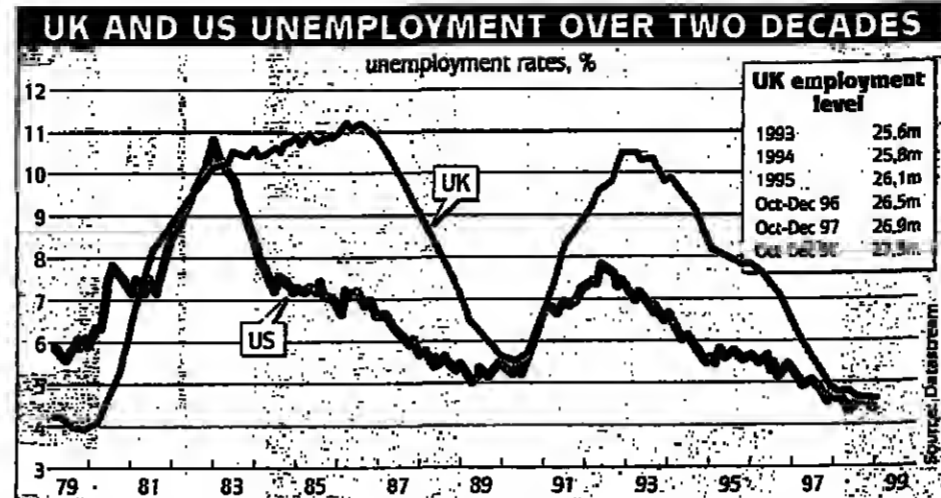
A DROP in unemployment to its lowest level in nearly 19 years, despite the economic slowdown, was welcomed yesterday by industry and unions. But they warned there would be bad news on jobs in coming months.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 5,700 in January to 1,305,300. Unemployment also fell by 15,000 in the three months to December on the broader survey measure to reach 1,790,000.

The Confederation of British Industry said unemployment was unlikely to continue falling and urged the Bank of England to cut interest rates again.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, which were published yesterday, showed that eight members voted for the unexpected half-point cut in rates this month. One - Willem Buiter - favoured a bigger reduction.

The minutes emphasised the danger posed by global slowdown, and showed that the MPC had significantly re-



vised its forecast of wage inflation.

The committee made pointed reference to the inaction of the European Central Bank, which is also causing concern at the Treasury. The minutes said: "The prospects for the global economy would be better if there were a more positive outlook for demand growth in the euro area."

Analysts said the minutes showed a bias in favour of further interest-rate cuts. "With structural improvements in

the jobs market and no inflationary pressure, we think rates could fall to 3.5 per cent next year," said Leo Doyle, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Yesterday's data showed a rise of 122,000 in employment in October-December, taking the total to a new peak of 27,286,000. The unemployment rate remained at 4.6 per cent, near the US's 4.3 per cent.

"It is great news that unemployment is still falling. We are getting a taste of the US,"

said Steven Bell, chief UK economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Unemployment measured by the Labour Force Survey showed increases in the North-east, Scotland, Wales, the West Midlands and North-west in the latest quarter. The biggest jobless falls were in London and Northern Ireland. London and the South-east had the biggest job gains.

The regional pattern was explained by the continuing loss of manufacturing jobs,

down by 85,000 in the year to the fourth quarter of 1998. New jobs were added in services. There were 88,000 more part-time jobs and 35,000 full-time.

The number of unemployed in the main New Deal category - 18 to 24-year-olds out of work for more than six months - fell from 119,915 in April 1998, when the programme was launched nationally, to 76,990 in January.

The fall in unemployment has levelled off. Many economists now expect the total to rise, but they believe the jobs market is now working more efficiently.

Unemployment is lower than the level at which it would have triggered wage inflation in the past. The official average earnings figures are still suspended. But the new statistics due soon are expected to indicate that wage inflation is declining.

This will be reinforced by the fact that City bonuses, paid early in the year, are said to be one-fifth lower than last year. Figures from the Engineering Employers' Federation showed settlements in January, a key month, fell below 2.5 per cent to their lowest since March 1995.

Another 3,000 jobs to go at BP Amoco

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BP AMOCO, Britain's largest company, is cutting an extra 3,000 jobs this year as it accelerates its cost-cutting programme in an attempt to adjust to falling oil prices.

The company, which was created by the merger of British and American oil giants last year, plans to achieve cost savings of \$2bn (£1.2bn) within the next 12 months - almost a year ahead of the original schedule.

As a result, 10,000 people will leave BP Amoco's operations around the world this year. One-fifth of all white-collar staff are to be axed. The company will also slash its exploration budget by almost half to \$550m as it concentrates on large, low-cost oil fields.

Sir John Browne, BP Amoco chief executive, said the company had assumed that the oil price would average no more than \$11 per barrel this year. Yesterday the price of a barrel



Sir John Browne, BP Amoco chief executive: Seeking cost savings of \$2bn in the next 12 months Nicola Kurtz

of Brent crude dipped below \$10 for the first time since December.

"We don't believe that anything much below \$11 is sustainable for very long because the fundamentals of supply and demand would be disrupted by a lack of investment," Mr Browne said. "But it's equally

hard to see a rapid rebound of prices from current levels because of the extent of stocks."

He was speaking as British Petroleum reported a 37 per cent plunge in underlying earnings to \$87m in the final quarter of 1998.

Earnings for the full year - the last before the merger -

dropped by a third to \$4.47bn.

Mr Browne said that BP Amoco also planned to add a further \$550m to its pre-tax profits this year from efficiency savings that BP and Amoco had already been planning before the merger.

However, a large chunk of the benefits will be wiped out this

year by restructuring charges, which are expected to total around \$1.5bn.

The company is currently preparing a new set of three-year targets, which it plans to announce to the City later this year.

BP Amoco shares closed down 16.5p at 840p.

Pet City founder to buy back superstore chain

THE MANAGEMENT team that sold the Pet City chain of superstores to the US group PetsMart for \$150m little more than two years ago is understood to be negotiating to buy the chain back for a knock-down £15m.

The management of PetsMart UK is led by chief executive Giles Clarke, one of the co-founders of Pet City who made a profit of £20m on the sale in October 1998 and who also helped

of the pet market would be near monopoly levels. Mr Clarke is thought to be in talks with venture capitalists and a deal could be announced by the weekend.

PetsMart UK, which changed its name from Pet City following the US takeover, declined to comment on a possible management buy-out yesterday. Cheshire-based Pets At Home also declined to comment.

The sale of the UK PetsMart chain for such a knock-down price would represent a spectacular failure by the US group.

When it acquired the business in October 1996 it had plans to expand the business from 50 stores to over 300 and become a category killer like Toys R Us.

"Pet retailing is one of the growth businesses of the 1990s," PetsMart chief executive Mark Hansen said at the time.

Before the deal the UK business had captured pet lovers' attention by offering a wide range of pets including tarantulas, chipmunks and parakeets as well as hamsters and budgies.

But since then it has added just eight new UK stores and appears to be struggling. Store rents rose, competition became tougher and planning permission for new stores has been difficult.

In the US PetsMart shares collapsed not long after the Pet City takeover when it issued a profits warning blaming stock mistakes and "slower sales of flea and tick products".

The company is now looking to exit the UK market. This would represent a reversal of the off-quoted retail maxim that British retailers often struggle when they expand in the US.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSE closed back more than half its earlier falls as New York turned on a stronger performance than expected. The index ended 30.2 points off at 6,078.4. Mid cap shares were also off, but small company shares made headway.

Cadbury Schweppes was the leading Footsie constituent, gaining 51p to 1,001p. A Merrill Lynch buy note helped: there was also talk of a merger with Hershey of the US. Mortgage banks were helped by a good showing by Woolwich, up 19.25p to 384.75p.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were mixed after Dell Computer Corporation reported lower than expected fourth quarter sales. Shares in Dell fell as low as 76 at one point in the day, before rebounding to 82 7/8, down 5 7/8, in afternoon trade.

One analyst said: "What seems clear is the underlying fundamentals continue to be strong. It's a market leader and the first reaction is a knee-jerk reaction."

By mid-afternoon, the Nasdaq was down 13.28 points at 2,300.59. The Dow Jones was up 48.12 points at 9,342.15.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS edged lower yesterday, with the recent rally in share prices sparking a bout of profit-taking. The benchmark Nikkei index ended down 37.97 points, or 0.52 per cent, at 14,158.87. Traders said prices had been hit by the unwinding of corporate cross-shareholdings ahead of the Japanese fiscal year end.

Kazunori Jinnai, deputy general manager of equities at Daiwa Securities, said: "The day started well, but as the Nikkei approached the mid-14,000 level the pressure to sell grew, led by futures selling."

FRANKFURT

SHARP FALLS in Deutsche Telekom dragged down share prices in Frankfurt yesterday.

The electronically-traded Xetra Dax share index fell 74.69 points, or 1.53 per cent, to 4,820.42. The floor Dax ended down 1.93 per cent at 4,810.69.

Shares in Deutsche Telekom, the communications giant, tumbled 3.9 per cent to 36.20 euros after the newspaper Die Welt reported that the company expected profits to fall in 1999. One trader said: "The report adds to negative sentiment about the telecoms sector."

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN stocks closed modestly lower yesterday, with the government's 1999/2000 budget sparking an afternoon rally.

The Johannesburg All Share Index started the day sharply lower but clawed back losses in late trade to close down just 0.43 per cent at 5,871.3.

Most analysts welcomed the government's pre-election budget, which included a cut in the rate of company tax from 35 to 30 per cent.

One said: "It was a good budget. It's good for business. It shows commitment to fiscal discipline."

New Deal replaces the old raw deal

THE THINGS that matter to people, as opposed to economists, are jobs and purchasing power. For much of the past 20 years, they have had a raw deal on both in the UK. It is only in the past three or four years that a return to both has seemed within our grasp, while until just recently, the unemployment rate has been above 5 per cent since mid-1980.

Initial attempts to squeeze inflation out of the economy turned out to carry a high cost in terms of jobs. In any case, to the extent that inflation was tamed by the damaging recession of the early 1980s, it was all thrown away again in the late 1980s boom. Policy mistakes allowed inflationary pressures to rebuild. These errors are not so long ago that they have yet faded in the memory, and for the time being, policy makers are determined not to repeat them. Inflation has not returned since the early 1990s recession. The experiment of inflation targeting has so far been an impressive success.

That hasn't stopped critics claiming that the policy obsession with beating inflation comes at too high a cost to jobs. Labour came to power staking an enormous amount of political capital on the New Deal as a



OUTLOOK

means of reducing unemployment while keeping inflation low.

The combination of these active measures to get hard-to-employ people into jobs with the legacy from the Tories of a flexible jobs market now looks as though it might at last be doing the trick. Just as in the US, the unemployment rate has fallen below the figure most experts thought would trigger wage inflation, yet there is scant sign of inflationary pressure. The mix of inflation and unemployment - the misery index - is the most favourable in nearly 20 years because that trade-off seems to have improved.

Even so, successful management of the economy requires eternal

vigilance. The Bank of England has been doing its bit by cutting interest rates pretty fast. The Government must continue its good work on the structure of the jobs market. This means not only pressing on with the New Deal, but also safeguarding the flexibility of the labour market. Policies like the minimum wage, working time directive and Working Families Tax Credit have started to nibble away at that. There is a difficult balance between safeguarding employees and over-regulating employers, and the Government must tread carefully if it wants the good news on the jobs front to continue.

Convertible bonds

IT IS hard to recall when conditions were so favourable to a revival in the corporate bond market as they are now. On cue, Railtrack has taken advantage as no other of historically low interest rates to launch a series of bond issues to finance its investment plans. Now it has come up with a bond issue with a difference - a convertible.

On the Continent, such convertible bond issues are common, but they are taking time to catch on in

the UK - more than a half of yesterday's £400m issue was sold to foreign investors. Nonetheless, there has been a steady stream of them in the past year from the National Grid, to Telewest and BAA.

Their appeal to issuers is twofold. Firstly, convertibles carry an exceptionally low coupon. In Railtrack's case this is just 3.5 per cent, some 2 percentage points lower than Railtrack would have to pay on a conventional ten year bond. This is even less than the Government pays for its ten year money. This is achieved by giving investors the right to convert their bonds into equity; in effect the investor trades in part of his coupon in return for the potential upside on the equity.

The second advantage is that to the extent that the investor does convert into equity, he has to do so at a big premium to the prevailing stock market price - in this case 25 per cent. It is not unknown to raise equity at a premium to the market price, but few companies find it easy.

So if these convertibles are so advantageous, why are so few British companies indulging in them? Unfortunately, only companies with exceptionally good credit ratings seem to be able to contemplate this

method of capital raising - hence the line up so far, which reads like a roll call of former state monopolies, top drawer property companies and assorted steady revenue earners. For higher risk companies, such bond issues have proved either next to impossible, or prohibitively expensive.

This could change, however. As investors become more accustomed to this form of quasi-equity, it may be possible for smaller companies, with more volatile earnings streams, to tap into this market too. If that were to happen on any meaningful scale, it might provide a partial answer to the stock market's failure to deal with the capital needs of many smaller enterprises. A ten year bond convertible at a premium into equity would seem to provide just the sort of cheap long term capital many small companies crave.

Woolwich

IF THE Woolwich did not already exist would anyone have invented it? Much as it would pain the bank's ever phlegmatic chief executive, John Stewart, to admit it, the answer must be no. It is neither big enough to be - well - big like the Halifax, nor

small enough to sell itself as a low cost niche producer like the Northern Rock.

Bar some residual affection among customers, many shareholders would be quite happy to sell to the highest bidder. The only problem is potential predators have shareholders of their own who would balk at paying the kind of price that would leave Mr Stewart and his board no alternative but to hoist the white flag and run crying to the bank.

The fact is that the Woolwich does exist and the poor chap has no alternative but to find some way of justifying both its and his existence. In the absence of the mega-deal that the City would love to see, yesterday's tie-up with Countrywide, the giant mortgage machine founded by the perpetually bronzed Angelo Mozilo, does at least score for originality if nothing else.

And it might actually work. The technology Countrywide can deploy is streets ahead of anything else in the UK market. The company has a total lending book of \$220bn and has already sold \$1bn worth of mortgages on the Internet.

If the joint venture goes to plan, the Woolwich will be in a position to

undercut its rivals in the UK and on the wider European stage, both in terms of pricing and the range of products it can offer.

If, as some predict, the dynamics of the UK mortgage market change sufficiently to allow widespread use of off-balance sheet finance, having a partner on board with the kind of securitisation experience Countrywide can boast, could prove invaluable.

In the end, the linkup may prove a Trojan horse for Mr Mozilo's wider European ambitions. Most of these joint ventures either don't work or fizzle out, or end up with one party or the other wanting to be boss and call the shots. It is not hard to guess whose pistol will pack the bigger punch when it comes to the final shootout.

Woolwich has two-and-a-half years of its five years of takeover protection left to run. Even the tiniest UK acquisition in the meantime would result in the bridge being lowered to all comers. The Countrywide link up provides an excellent alternative to an acquisition strategy; but it is hard to avoid the conclusion that eventually Woolwich will end up as part of a larger organisation, whatever it does to avoid it.

£400m issue derails Railtrack share price

SHARES IN Railtrack went into reverse yesterday after the privatised rail infrastructure monopoly launched a £400m bond to raise money to fund its investment plans.

The 10-year bond issue will allow holders to convert their bonds into Railtrack shares. This is the first time the company has issued an exchangeable bond.

The issue was oversubscribed to such an extent that the underwriters, led by Warburg Dillon Read, exercised an option to extend the initial £350m offer by £50m. The book was closed after just over three hours.

The bond issue prompted a fall in Railtrack shares, which

By PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

closed down 77p at 1459p. "The bond issue has led to the skid. People are selling the equity to buy the bond," said Richard Hannah, an analyst at BT Alex Brown.

Investors have the option of exchanging for shares at 1,840p, a 25 per cent premium to yesterday's mid-market price of 1,472p, effectively gambling that the shares are set for a hefty rise.

The bond will pay interest at 3.5 per cent - at the lower end of the indicative range of 3.5 to 3.75 per cent - which represents a significant discount to what Railtrack would be re-

quired to pay with a straight bond issue.

Railtrack said the issue was designed to take advantage of the fact that debt was now cheaper than equity because of falling interest rates. "If we borrow now we get the lowest interest rates," said a spokeswoman.

Norman Broadhurst, the financial director, said: "This new issue represents an attractive financing opportunity which enables the company to diversify its funding base and maintain a strong balance sheet."

An official at Warburg Dillon Read said: "The sterling convertible bond market is an attractive place to raise money.

We have been saying to our corporate clients for some time that this is a very attractive financing opportunity, given the mood of investors and given what interest rates are about."

The funds will contribute towards Railtrack's two most immediate infrastructure projects - the £2.2bn upgrade of the West Coast main line to Glasgow and the £600m Thameslink 2000 project to improve links between the north and south Home Counties through London. The company launched a 30-year £250m bond issue in December.

One analyst said the bond was based on an implied share volatility of around 20 per cent,



Broadhurst: 'Attractive financing opportunity'

well below historic volatility for Railtrack shares last year.

The Railtrack treasury official said the scope for further exchangeable bond issues was limited because investor protection rules were in place limiting the number of shares a company could issue without shareholder approval.

Stock Exchange investigates AIB share price movements

THE STOCK Exchange is investigating the sharp movements in the share price of Allied Irish Banks (AIB), which has been at the centre of speculation that it is about to be taken over by either Lloyds TSB or Germany's Deutsche Bank.

AIB finance director, Declan McSweeney, said: "We have been in discussions with the Stock Exchange." On the takeover rumours, he said: "We have been getting calls on this every day. We have taken a decision not to comment." However, he added: "Our intention and desire is to remain independent."

Mr McSweeney was speaking after AIB reported a 42 per cent jump in profits to £282m, making AIB the first Irish company to report profits of over one billion euros. Mr McSweeney attributed the strong result

By ANDREW GARFIELD

primarily to the continued strength of the Irish economy. AIB said loan growth in Ireland was 26 per cent and deposits grew by 13 per cent. He said the bank had also seen strong growth in the UK.

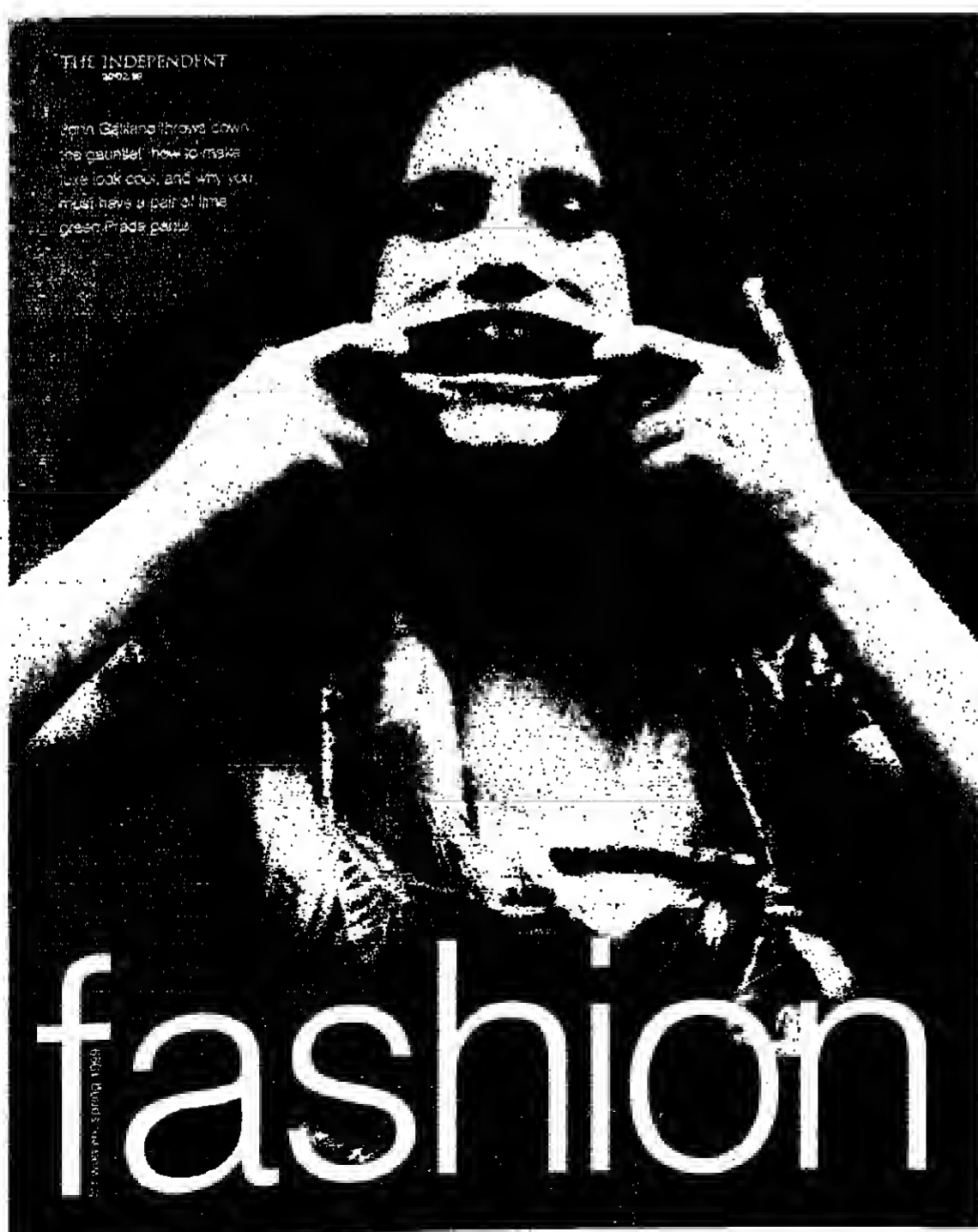
Mr McSweeney said the bank was looking for acquisitions in the US, where AIB has completed the integration of First Maryland Bancorp, and in Poland, where its 60 per cent-owned offshoot WBK reported a 30 per cent rise in profits. In the UK, he said: "We would be keen to expand the business but it is hard to find suitable opportunities."

The finance director sees little sign of the Irish economy slowing, despite fears that the move to a 3 per cent base rate after Ireland joined the Euro zone last month might push the

boom too far. Despite 30 per cent house price rises in some parts of Dublin and a shortfall in new houses, the housing boom was still fairly soundly based, he said.

One worrying factor was the sharp decline in margins, a result of the general fall in interest rates and tough competition in the Irish insurance and savings market. However, strong income growth saw AIB's cost income ratio - the standard industry measure of efficiency - fall from 62.4 per cent to 54.9 per cent despite a rise in operating costs, chiefly due to acquisitions in the US and the Polish bank which was included in full-year results for the first time.

AIB was able to report a return on equity of 27.3 per cent, putting it ahead of all the major UK banks, with the exception of Lloyds at 33 per cent.



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THE SUNDAY REVIEW

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A great time for consumers but it's tough on managers

IT IS A great moment in history to be a consumer, but a tough one to be a producer.

The growing imbalance between, on the one hand, the United States and on the other, Europe and Japan, has attracted widespread attention. The US has indeed remained an oasis of prosperity and high employment, but this has been at the cost of a current account deficit of 3 per cent of GDP. By contrast both the Euro 11 and Japan are notching up ever-larger current account surpluses.

There is, however, another imbalance which has attracted rather less attention. This is the imbalance between the pressure on companies around the world and the expectations of financial markets about their performance. Of course, the position varies from country to country and industry to industry so any generalisations about the business sector have to be taken with some caution. Obviously the pressures on Japanese companies selling mainly into the weak domestic market are utterly different from American ones selling into their strong one. But if you are in the internationally-traded sector there are strong common factors affecting your performance, and it is possible to chart some of these.

In a nutshell, international firms are being hit by a triple-whammy: falling prices, rising costs and falling production. Producer prices - the price that companies receive for their goods - are negative in all the Group of Seven nations. This is not quite a unique experience, for there was a period in the early 1990s when producer prices went negative (see left-hand chart). But it is a sharper and already more prolonged experience, for instead of falling prices being a blip at the bottom of recession, there is now the prospect of prices falling well into the future.

Meanwhile, unit labour costs are rising, not by much to be sure, but at a faster level than for five years. The result of this is to squeeze profits - see middle graph - which as a percentage of GDP are now



HAMISH MCRAE

Hardly a day goes by without news of a merger and every time you know the outcome will be the sacking of lots of workers

down close to early 1990s levels. As world industrial production falls (right hand graph), the annual change in profits has gone negative.

This macro-economic view of the world is endorsed by the evidence unfolding on the global company reporting scene: look at BP/Amoco and Deutsche Bank to see two global giants producing disappointing results this week.

So what will happen? In the judgement of the editors of The

ease much) because it is having to act as a counterweight to the weak fiscal and structural policies of the major European governments.

ONE EFFECT of this intense pressure on global companies is the wave of restructuring currently taking place. The pressures mount, but the markets demand performance. They punish managements that fail to deliver - and if that sounds an aggressive, Anglo-Saxon

None of this, in the view of the BCA team, means that there is necessarily a long bear market in equities.

But shareholders will have to look through a dip in profits that could run on until early next year. That might seem an acceptable time-horizon, but even when the improvement comes it may disappoint - in a zero or negative inflation world profits are unlikely to rise by more than 4-5 per cent a year. That cannot long sustain double-digit returns on equities.

Finally, investors cannot assume that next time there is a hint of trouble on the international markets the central bankers will ease rates. It does appear that last autumn the Fed repeated the mistake the central banks made in 1987 when, fearful of the economic impact of Black Monday, they cut rates when they should have held them up.

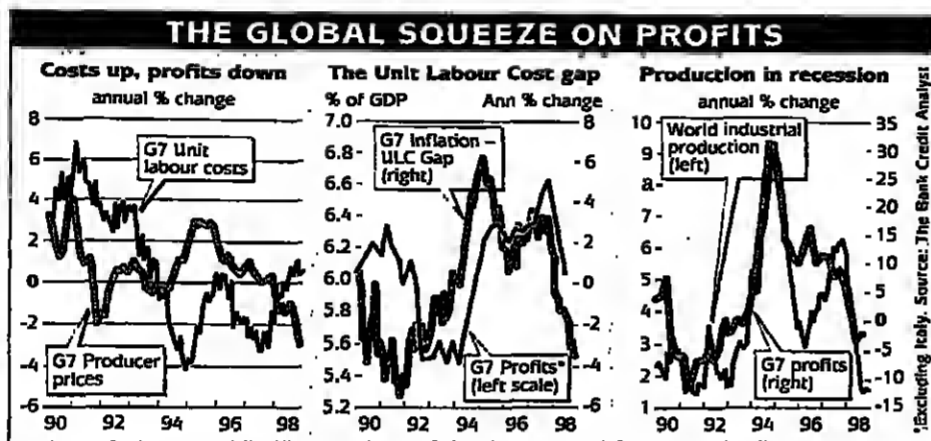
We are normal in that we are an open economy, with foreign earnings (either from exports or from foreign subsidiaries) representing roughly half the profits of the Footsie 100 companies. We are also open in the sense that London-registered companies and UK gilts are liquid markets. If big money is washing round the world looking for a home, some of it ends up here. If big money is running scared, our markets will take a hit along with the others.

We are, however, abnormal in that we have had a buoyant economy which has been curbed relatively early in the cycle by a sharp rise in interest rates. You can have a debate as to whether this rise was too sharp, and whether rates are being cut fast enough now. But we are also an economy which will jump up domestic demand in response to rate cuts - a function of the impact of short-term rates on mortgages.

SO IF DEMAND does falter globally, it ought to be possible to stimulate demand here by cutting rates. The government also has leeway to ease fiscal policy, having clearly tightened it by more than it intended. (The switch to self-assessment has resulted in unplanned surpluses, though it is almost certainly a once-and-for-all adjustment because of earlier payments, rather than a lasting rise in revenues.)

So there is considerable leeway here for easing, which may well be needed, but also a prospect of the great British consumer rising to the occasion if and when his or her services are needed. Consumers, not just here, but everywhere have an opportunity that hardly anyone has ever experienced - the possibility of goods in the shops becoming cheaper and cheaper and cheaper.

But that will not help the global squeeze on profits. It is great to be a consumer. It is tough to be a manager. And to be an investor? I think it is puzzling - and unravelling the puzzle will preoccupy the markets through the rest of this year.



Bank Credit Analyst group, who pulled together the charts shown here, world economic growth has not yet bottomed and global inflation will continue to drift downwards.

But because US and European growth will both move into recession - in contrast to growth in much of the rest of the world - monetary policy will not be eased. The US Federal Reserve will not ease, according to the BCA, because it regrets its mistake of excessive easing last autumn, which has exacerbated the boom in asset prices. To this one might add that the European Central Bank will not ease for at least

sentiment, note that BMW, a German family-controlled business, had little compunction in shooting the two top guys when the group underperformed.

Thus hardly a day goes by without news of some merger, take-over or strategic alliance. And, of course, every time one is announced you know that the outcome of the deal will be the sacking of lots of workers - mergers are a sign of weakness, not of strength. In the short term this wave of restructuring has buoyed the stock market, but the pressure on profits has also extended the already stretched valuations the market puts on companies.

That mistake created the conditions for the boom/bust cycle of the late 1980s and early 1990s. You don't need to believe that we face a rerun of that to be aware that the central banks will be cautious in future.

So much for the global view, how does this translate into the UK situation? There are two main points here. In one sense we are completely "normal" and therefore will experience exactly the same forces as other developed nations. In another we are abnormal, and may therefore face a rather different outcome.



Woolwich chairman Sir Brian Jenkins (left) and chief executive John Stewart yesterday announced pre-tax profits up by 11 per cent to £505m

Woolwich links with US mortgage giant

THE WOOLWICH yesterday teamed up with Countrywide Credit Industries, America's fourth-largest home loans provider, in a deal which paves the way for the introduction of US-style discount mortgages into UK and European markets.

The announcement, coupled with a £236m special dividend payout to shareholders, throws down the gauntlet to low-cost providers such as Northern Rock, which last month said it was looking at US-style securitisation as a way of offering cheaper, more flexible deals.

Yesterday's move, which surprised analysts, was well received in the City. Woolwich shares rose by more than 5 per cent in a falling market to 384.5p. Profits before tax were ahead of expectations at £505m, a rise of 10.8 per cent.

The 15p-a-share special dividend comes on top of a 10.6p

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

ordinary dividend payout, up 11.8 per cent on last year. Countrywide has an outstanding loans portfolio worth £220bn (£135bn), almost all of it securitised. It is by far the largest US independent lender.

Angelo Mozilo, the Sicilian-American who helped found Countrywide in 1969, said the Los Angeles-based group had been looking for a European partner for two years before settling on Woolwich.

He added that, while he did not see the deal leading to a merger, there might "at the end of the road" be "some sharing of equity at a *de minimis* level".

The deal, details of which will be fleshed out in April, will mean Countrywide taking over the management of the 10 Woolwich processing centres in

the UK, where it will introduce its own automated systems.

The operation will focus initially on servicing Woolwich's existing mortgage business. However, the plan is then to market itself as a low-cost subcontractor for mortgage processing services, both to other UK lenders and to operators elsewhere in Europe.

Mr Mozilo sees huge opportunities for reducing costs and introducing US-style mortgage products into the UK and Europe, particularly as the costs of servicing mortgages at Countrywide are half those at Woolwich currently in the UK.

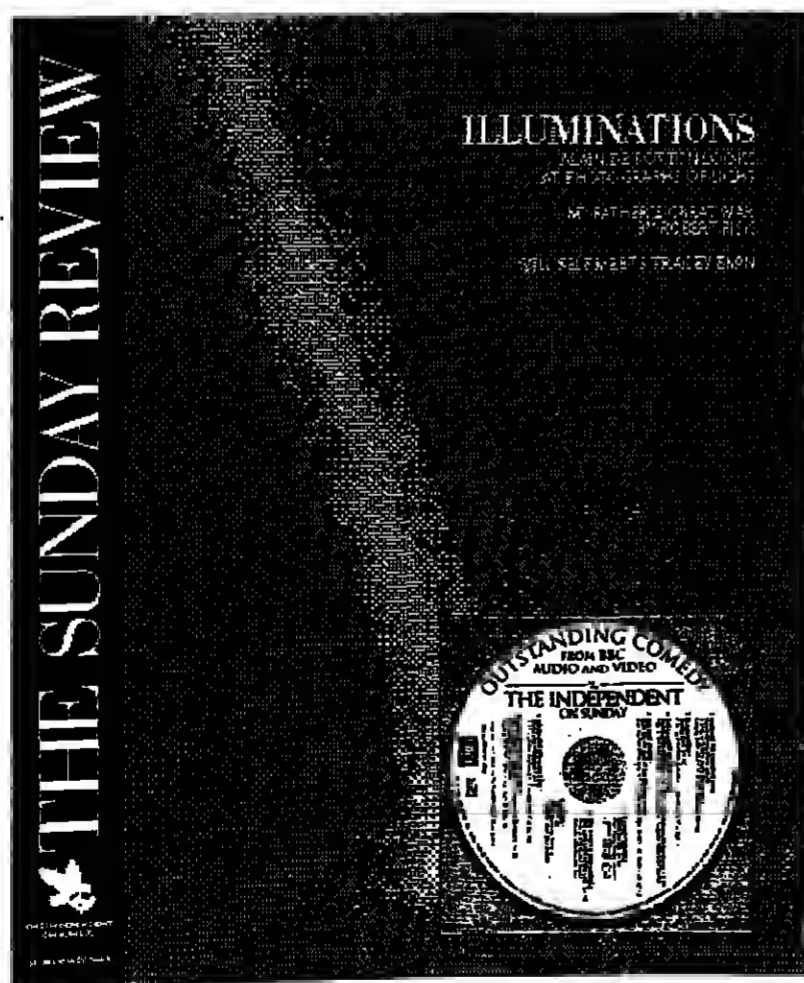
John Stewart, the Woolwich chief executive, said yesterday's deal would position the group to take advantage of the low interest-rate environment that is putting pressure on margins, and of the opportunities thrown up by the euro.

COMPANY RESULTS

| Name | Turnover (£) | Pre-tax (£) | EPS | Dividend | Pay day | X-div |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Admiral Carpenters (F) | 136,806m (138,802m) | 0.050m (0.505m) | 0.05p (2.25p) | 0.5p (2.75p) | 10/05/99 | 06/04/99 |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 11,086m (4,49m) | 1.43m (1.02m) | 18.2p (17.22p) | 5p (-) | 01/04/99 | 01/03/99 |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 4,086m (3,79m) | 3.03m (1.41m) | 6.16p (4.61p) | - | - | - |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 3,464m (4,408m) | -0.57m (-0.280m) | -6.79p (-2.28p) | - | - | - |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 22,571m (19,22m) | 3.45m (2.75m) | 5.9p (5.19p) | - | - | - |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 0.05m (0.121m) | -0.13m (-0.489m) | -0.59p (-4.11p) | - | - | - |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 12,30m (11,05m) | 1.13m (0.027m) | 6.26p (0.41p) | 3.02p (0.025p) | 09/04/99 | 08/03/99 |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | - | 495.9m (402.4m) | 20.6p (15.5p) | 10.6p (9.5p) | 10/05/99 | 22/03/99 |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 867.3m | 212.8m (177.4m) | 18.8p (15.7p) | 2.56p (2.13p) | 12/07/99 | 07/06/99 |
| Admiral Shipyard (F) | 5,510m (5,194m) | 1.05m (1.061m) | 75.5p (77p) | 42p (38.5p) | 26/04/99 | 25/03/99 |

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (Q) - Quarterly (S) - Split Period (N) - Nine Months

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| P/E Ratio | High | Low | Stock | Price | Qty | V |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|---|
| 19.5 | 30.05 | 1.71 | 100 | 25.5 | 35 | |
| | | | 100 | 11.35 | 0.0 | |

MARKET LEADERS
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5cm

FTSE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

| | Price | Chg | TM | P/E | Cash | 52 week | | Price | |
|-----|-------|------|----|-----|------|---------|-----|--------------------|-------|
| | | | | | | High | Low | | |
| GWR | 77.5 | -0.5 | | | 5838 | 408 | 98 | Unity Ventures Inc | 62.0 |
| HC | 138.5 | +0.3 | 48 | | 5751 | 104 | 115 | Monument Sec Co | 138.5 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------|------|-----|---|------|------|----|------------------|-------|
| Port | 346.0 | -3.5 | 3.0 | - | 25.0 | 15.1 | 98 | Port IndusGrowth | 129.5 |
| Cap | 293.5 | -1.0 | 2.3 | - | 19.0 | 42.8 | 98 | Port Un. SmCo | 308.0 |
| 9895 | 419.0 | -3.0 | 0.0 | - | 15.0 | 1.0 | 99 | Public Income | 132.0 |
| 9896 | 105.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 | - | 15.0 | 1.0 | 99 | Public Income | 132.0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|---------------|-------|
| 274.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 2111 | 191 | 148 | Schroder Inv | 199.0 |
| 196.5 | -0.8 | 1.1 | 1219 | 293 | 171 | Scott Amer | 220.2 |
| 168.5 | -0.5 | 2.1 | 1226 | 121 | 53 | Scott Pacific | 126.3 |
| 473.0 | -6.0 | 0.4 | 2113 | 365 | 263 | Scott Invest | 387.5 |

| Category | Value | Value | Value |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Net Profit | 46.3 | 4.6 | 0.6 |
| Operating Profit | 332.5 | 3.5 | 5.1 |
| Operating Loss | 61.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Operating Income | 157.0 | 1.0 | 0.5 |

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| | Price | Chg | Yld | P/E | Code | 52 Week High | Low | Stock | Price |
|--------|-------|------|-----|-----|------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-------|
| Am Rac | 79.5 | -0.3 | | | 4399 | 194 | 36 | Temp Laxer | 59.8 |
| Am SCo | 64.5 | 0.0 | 0.6 | | 1151 | 175 | 113 | Thomson-ETSEA-S | 129.0 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----|----------------|-------|
| 178 | 117 | Lincoln Assn | 137.5 |
| 270 | 164 | US Steel Cos | 236.5 |
| 167 | 105 | Wells F Income | 114.8 |
| 129 | 105 | Value Freight | 129.3 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----|----|------|-----|-----|-----------------|-------|
| Eng | 130.0 | 10 | 15 | 2687 | 33 | 30 | Alfred Lees | 24.0 |
| Acacia | 53.5 | 0.0 | | 4790 | 21 | 10 | Angus Lutz | 18.3 |
| Adelphi | 80.0 | 1.0 | | 4382 | 760 | 473 | Acton Villa | 500.0 |
| Lowlands | 161.5 | 0.0 | | 3846 | 775 | 208 | Bossley & White | 335.0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|---|------|-----|-----|-----------|-------|
| 1985.0 | 26.54 | - | 2415 | 308 | 99 | ERIC | 98.5 |
| 1985.0 | 26.54 | - | 3870 | 310 | 171 | Euroclasp | 230.0 |
| 1985.0 | 26.54 | - | 5151 | 111 | 76 | Euroclasp | 76.5 |
| 1985.0 | 26.54 | - | 2458 | 147 | 21 | Euroclasp | 21.5 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|---------------|-------|----|
| 1992 | 85.5 | -0.5 | 2.0 | 2568 | 52 | 14 | Hi-Tec | 16.5 | 12 |
| San Co | 188.0 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 2873 | 289 | 148 | Holmes Plac | 285.5 | 12 |
| is | 439.5 | +1.6 | 4.5 | 1336 | 373 | 188 | Hoselock Grp | 350.0 | 0 |
| Fr | 147.0 | -1.3 | 2.3 | 1163 | 200 | 94 | Jarvis Hotels | 106.0 | - |
| | 118.7 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 1954 | 520 | 285 | Janet | 437.0 | - |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|------|-----|------|------|-----|---------------|-------|----|
| Index | 46.3 | -0.3 | 1.1 | 1889 | 1235 | 124 | Man Ltd | 221.5 | 0 |
| Econ | 35.5 | +0.3 | 1.7 | 3773 | 821 | 294 | AM & Cogn | 495.0 | -1 |
| Composite | 98.0 | 0.5 | 4.1 | 2024 | 120 | 57 | Newcastle Mid | 83.5 | -2 |
| Wire | 455.3 | -1.8 | 4.0 | 1352 | 200 | 63 | North Lendire | 131.5 | -4 |

| Stock | Price | Chg | Vol | 52 week | High | Low | Stock | Price |
|---------------------|-------|-----|-----|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| INDEX-LINKED | | | | | 108.51 | 100.68 | Tov 7% | 108.51 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|------|------|------|--------|--------|--------------|-------|
| VL 2.5 09 | 214.85 | 0.37 | 1.92 | 3109 | 99.27 | 91.20 | Fund 3.5% 04 | 98.6 |
| VL 2.5 11 | 227.87 | 0.52 | 1.67 | 3163 | 126.43 | 118.54 | Com 9.5% 04 | 123.6 |
| VL 2.5 13 | 191.45 | 0.53 | 2.00 | 3140 | 113.30 | 102.08 | Key 6.75% 04 | 111.0 |
| VL 2.5 20 | 811.03 | 0.82 | 1.08 | 3120 | 128.17 | 117.82 | Com 9.5% 08 | 125.4 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|------|------|------|--------|--------|-----------|----|-------|
| 2.5% Perp | \$3.20 | 0.16 | 4.70 | 1099 | 129.85 | 118.10 | Tay 8.6% | 07 | 128.4 |
| 2.5% Perp | 52.40 | 0.08 | 4.77 | 3131 | 122.57 | 108.18 | Tay 7.25% | 07 | 119.0 |
| 3% Perp | 83.20 | 0.21 | 4.75 | 3132 | 138.52 | 122.17 | Tay 9% | 08 | 134.0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|-------------|-------|
| 0.5% 99 | 100.02 | . | . | 3121 | 147.76 | 126.83 | Tay 9% 12 | 143.0 |
| 12.25% 99 | 100.67 | -0.01 | 0.26 | 2083 | 172.24 | 88.19 | Tay 5.5% 12 | 108.2 |
| 10.5% 99 | 101.30 | 0.00 | 5.10 | 3145 | 193.66 | 118.20 | Tay 8% 13 | 135.0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|--------------|-------|
| 8% 08 | 100.47 | 0.00 | 4.98 | 8714 | 133.80 | 114.43 | Tay 7 75% 15 | 130.0 |
| 10.25% 89 | 103.88 | -0.02 | 4.94 | 1908 | 144.14 | 120.53 | Tay 8 75% 15 | 140.1 |
| MEDIUMS | | | | | 156.07 | 129.70 | Tay 8 75% 17 | 101.6 |
| | | | | | 131.17 | 100.00 | Tay 8 75% 17 | 120.0 |

هكذا من الله

Sweetener from Cadbury peps up jaded Footsie

CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S offered a tired stock market the sweet hint of merger activity as stories swirled of a deal with Hershey, the US chocolate group.

The shares rose by 51p to 1,001p in busy trading, with an upgrade from Merrill Lynch, on the surface at least, seemingly responsible for the progress.

But it was the rumoured Hershey deal that attracted some buyers. They latched on to the thought that Cadbury will be cash-rich once it sells its non-US soft drink operations and is looking around for confectionery deals.

The group aims to develop its US soft drinks business, based on the Dr Pepper and Seven-Up brands. But the world's fourth-biggest chocolate maker does not enjoy much of a direct involvement in the US - in fact only its Creme Eggs - where Hershey makes and sells its products under licence.

Cadbury believes the market is keen to close such a yawning gap in its worldwide

SHIELD DIAGNOSTIC firmed 7.5p to 475p. Nomura believes the fair value will be around 2,700p following the merger with Axis Biochemicals, the Norwegian group.

Once the deal goes through - agreement is expected later this month - Shield will move into profits much earlier than it has remained on its own. The healthcare group has had a volatile time of it, with its shares swinging between a 32p low and a peak of 805p.

confectionery network and is keen to open talks with Hershey - indeed, if it has not already done so.

Merrill Lynch lifted its advice on Cadbury, as well as Unilever, to buy. It expects Cadbury to produce profits of £612m, up from £575m. The investment house is looking for a £500m share buyback and has a 1,125p target price on the shares.

The market had a relatively uneventful session, although blue chips halved early falls as New York turned on a better-than-expected display. Footsie closed off 30.2 points at 6,078.4, ending a four-day winning streak.

The mid cap index weakened 26.4 points to 5,174.5, but the small cap held its winning ways with a 2.4 gain to 2,250.5p.

Mortgage banks attracted attention as Woolwich, up 19.25p to 384.75p, came in with an 11 per cent profit rise to £505.1m and plans to shake up the British mortgage market. It also endeared itself with a higher year's dividend and a special 15p-a-share payment.

Alliance & Leicester, seen by some as Lloyd's TSB's next target, rose 42.5p to 886.5p. Halifax, year's results too, missed out, gaining just 1.5p (after 39p) to 771.5p.

Allied Irish Banks, with

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

the ever hopeful boys in dark glasses now looking for a bid tomorrow, fell 57p to 1,075p following results.

Oils weakened as the Brent crude price slipped below \$10 a barrel. BP Amoco, with disappointing fourth-quarter results, fell 16.5p to 840p and merger hopefuls Enterprise Oil lost 7.5p to 242.5p and Lasso 2.5p to 115p.

British Airways climbed 13.25p to 429.25p as Morgan Stanley set a 525p price target, but Hays, the business support group, fell 16.5p to 570p after the same investment house suggested the shares were overpriced.

Unigate, up 18.5p to 401.5p, responded to ABN Amro comments that the shares were undervalued; there were also hopes of a share buyback.

Railtrack was slumped into the red, down 77p to 1,459p. It is tapping the capital market for £400m with a

contract problem.

AB Airlines, which arrived at near 100p last spring, dived 12p to 35p following a bleak trading statement. Allied Carpets rolled out profits of just £59,000 and fell 5.5p to 38.5p.

Reflec, the reflective ink group, lost a third of its value at 2p as it at last revealed details of its cash-raise exercise. It is placing shares with institutions and other investors at 1p each, which it hopes will pull in £2.45m. The issue is not underwritten.

Carbo, the engineer, hardened 1.5p to 18.5p as its management, led by Ken Jackson, met institutional investors. Last week the group took over an Italian industrial abrasives business for about £4.1m.

Topps Tiles, a leading specialist tile retailer, firmed 8.5p to 188.5p after Peel Hunt made positive noises. It sees the chain continuing to grow, with profits this year emerging at £5.6m, up from £4.1m. For the year the broker is looking for £5m.

DBS Management, the financial group, rose 23p to 121.5p; it was among the final 41 firms removed from the pension mis-selling list.

SEAQ VOLUME: 970.7 million
SEAQ TRADING: 84,785
GILTS INDEX: 114.62 -0.05

Leicester, up 5p to 42.5p, was said to be the likely

ject of a bid from a consortium of supporters.

Two financially challenged football clubs joined the day's action with cash-raising exercises. Loftus Road (Queens Park Rangers) fell 1p to 13p after a £2.3m cash call at 13p and a £1.4m loan from its showbiz chairman, Chris Wright, and Millwall held at 1.15p after raising £300,000 through a share placing.

Rumours of further bid action continued to circulate. Chemical group Brest International, where talks are on, put on 8.5p to 110.5p, on the suspicion a deal is near: around 150p a share is one story. Reed Executive jumped 19p to 110p on rumoured interest.

Costs Virella rose 3.75p to 39p after attracting a £322m price for its engineering arm compared with earlier estimates of near £200m.

The inevitable profit warnings took their toll. Slag & Lest, blaming its northern plants, wilted 22p to 180.5p and Christian Salvesen, the logistics group, reversed 15p to

HUNTING, the oil and defence group whose last reported profits were nearly £33m, firmed 8.5p to 128.5p after it joined forces with the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency in a bid to renew its government management contracts for the atomic weapons establishments. They are worth around £2.5bn.

The new contract starts in April next year. The defence group's shares have fallen from the peak of 275p that they reached last summer.

81p after disclosing a £3m contract problem.

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INVESTMENT Zeneca profits slip to £1.1bn



Sir David Barnes, Zeneca chief executive, announcing yesterday's results Tom Craig

ZENECA, the drug giant in the throes of a £480m merger with its Swedish rival Astra, yesterday revealed that a £150m currency hit had caused a drop in 1998 earnings.

In its last results before the Astra deal, Zeneca said that the strong pound weighed around 12 per cent off group operating profits, pushing the pretax figure to £1,063m, 2 per cent down on 1997. Zeneca sales also suffered a £208m blow due to the strong pound, ending 1998 at £5.5bn, 6 per cent up on the previous year.

Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, defended the company's performance and said that the results showed strong

underlying growth. He added that, excluding currency effects and a £44m expenditure on the millennium bug, pretax profits and sales were up 10 per cent.

Sir David, who is to become deputy chairman of AstraZeneca, dismissed fears that the merger, set to be approved by Zeneca's shareholders today, could be delayed by anti-trust regulators on both sides of the Atlantic. He said that last week's requests for more information from the US and European authorities centred on "relatively narrow areas".

"We continue to be hopeful that the merger can be concluded in the second quarter [of 1999] as planned," he said.

But even assuming that AstraZeneca is waved through, questions remain on the combined group's future growth. The key issue is whether the two companies have the drugs to fill the gap left by the expiry of patents on some of their blockbusters in two years' time.

Between 2001 and 2002, Zeneca will lose exclusive rights on Zestril, its £800m a year hypertension product, while Astra will lose protection on the anti-ulcer treatment Losec, the world's best-selling drug. Together, the two products make up some 30 per cent of AstraZeneca's sales of over £10bn.

ASTRAZENECA: AT A GLANCE

| Trading record | 1997 | 1998 | 1999* |
|--------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Turnover (£bn) | 9.54 | 10.38 | 10.37 |
| Profit for the year (£m) | 2.11 | 2.12 | 1.80 |
| Earnings per share (p) | 82.3 | 82.00 | 91.40 |
| Dividends per share (p) | 38.5 | 42.00 | 46.50 |

*Merrill Lynch forecast

Zeneca share price

3000

2500

2000

1500

1000

500

1994 95 96 97 98 1999

AstraZeneca drug sales in 1998, %

Gastrointestinal 38%

Cardiovascular 23%

Anti-infectives 2%

Cancer 14%

CNS 2%

Respiratory 10%

Anaesthesia 10%

Other 4%

*Merrill Lynch forecast

Tom McKillop, the chief executive designate of the combined group, yesterday said growth will come from 14 new products set to be launched by 2001. AstraZeneca was also looking at licensing more compounds from smaller companies. The problem is that the new products are not growing as fast as expected and may not be enough to plug the hole left by the waning blockbusters.

Yesterday's results seemed to confirm these fears and caused a 41p drop in the shares to 225.7p.

Seroquel, Zeneca's anti-schizophrenia treatment sold £39m last year compared with £13m in 1997. Zomig, its asthma treatment, reached sales of £81m but was hit by a downturn in the market for respiratory drugs.

Mr McKillop yesterday maintained that sales growth will pick up and claimed the £1.1bn of merger savings would also help, but some analysts remain sceptical.

The worries over the future are reflected in the new group's discount to its UK rivals. Zeneca's shares - a proxy for the merged entity's stock - trade on around 28 times 1999 earnings of around £1.80. This is well below the 30-plus forward multiples of other drug giants such as SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome.

Internet billings drive WPP growth

WPP, the advertising group whose shares have more than doubled since the stock market recovery started in autumn last year, continued its good run yesterday with a 19 per cent increase in full-year profits and a pledge of more growth to come. However, the shares fell by 4 per cent to 464.75p as investors took profits after the recent strong run.

WPP, whose businesses include J. Walter Thomson and Ogilvy & Mather, saw billings rise by 10 per cent to £8bn, helped by high-profile campaigns such as IBM's e-bus-

ness campaign as well as others for Ford, Unilever and American Express.

Internet billings, itemised separately for the first time, totalled £120m (£74m) as the group's clients increasingly took banner advertisements on popular websites.

Margins rose by a full percentage point to 12.8 per cent. The group's target is to reach 14 per cent in two years, while longer-term aims could be to attain the 15 to 16 per cent level

reached by top rivals such as Omnicom.

Fixed costs, principally salaries and property costs, are now below 50 per cent of revenue. Variable costs such as staff incentive payments have risen as a proportion, giving WPP a cushion in the event of a downturn.

Analysts said fears of recession could have driven some profit taking yesterday as advertising is seen as an early casualty of any fall in consumer spending.

Although Martin Sorrell, WPP's chief executive, was

positive on growth prospects, particularly in the US and continental Europe, there are worries over Latin America and the UK.

WPP is gradually shifting the balance of its business so that it reduces its reliance on advertising, which now accounts for less than 50 per cent of group revenues. Growth sectors include specialist communications in areas such as e-commerce activities and corporate identity work.

On current-year profit forecasts of £240m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 23.

That is still at a discount to the market, but high for cyclical businesses such as advertising and public relations.

However, the group's broker, WestLB Panmure, points out that the current year's 10 per cent organic earnings growth will be supplemented by infill acquisitions and a £50m share buyback that will further enhance earnings.

This could lead to further outperformance, but after the strong rally private investors could do worse than follow institutional shareholders and lock in some profits.

Last dance for Bronwyn

ONE OF the most admired chief economists in the City, Bronwyn Curtis of Nomura International, has inexplicably left the firm.

The Japanese-owned bank announced yesterday that the Australian former ballerina "has decided that she does not want to undertake the additional travelling in Asia which will be necessary to implement effectively the shift in emphasis in the euro research work".

We all wish Bronwyn well - she has been a leading light in the Square Mile in the past few years.

Final deadline

BRUCE KINLOCH, who died yesterday, was one of the old school of business journalists. He started work on the Daily Express just as the Second World War broke out. He knew everyone who has been anyone in newspapers and the

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

world of property for almost 60 years, starting with Lord Beaverbrook and Charles Clore.

Property tycoons loved him because he treated them as real people and was not afraid of them. Some of them were quite afraid of him because he had an endless repertoire of alarming practical jokes.

He once telephoned a colleague who ran a small publishing company and pretended to be a Lincolnshire clergyman and publisher of religious tracts whose copyright had been infringed. He kept the conversation going until his peals of laughter became audible across the room.

His weekly property columns were unique. He was fond of top quality people, mis-



chief and laughter, champagne and cigars. His prize possession was a note signed "I owe Bruce Kinloch £10" signed by Dylan Thomas, whom he met in a Fleet Street pub in the fifties.

Our sympathies go to his widow Madeleine and their four children.

Beware of rats

DRAGONS, TIGERS and monkeys are leaving a trail of destruction across the country, according to CGU Insurance.

A survey conducted by the insurance giant's 24-hour helpline for the start of the Chinese New Year reveals that people born in the year of the monkey appear to be the worst drivers, while rats have the most mishaps in the home.

Happy returns

MICHAEL HARDERN, the self-styled "carpetbagger-in-chief", is celebrating his birthday at Claridges, the art deco London hotel, at 7pm today.

It will be fascinating to see if any bosses of the remaining mutual building societies turn up to play "bad fairy".

DTI advice

STEPHEN BYERS, the man who stepped into Peter Mandelson's shoes at the DTI, has appointed a second special adviser in addition to Dan Corry, the one he inherited from the previous regime. The new girl is Jo Moore, a former stalwart

In at Thistle

THISTLE HOTELS has two new non-executive directors, courtesy of Brierley Investments of New Zealand, which has a 46 per cent shareholding in the company.

Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan and Rupert Morley have been appointed to replace the two existing nominees, Rodney Price and Paul Collins.

Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan is chairman of the Hong Leong Group in Malaysia and of Camerlin Ltd, a major shareholder in Brierley Investments.

Mr Morley is the operations director of Brierley's London Office.

Thistle Hotels, which owns one of the most spectacularly ugly hotels in Britain, opposite the Tower of London, has also appointed Andrew Bould, chief operating officer, to the board.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

| Country | Sterling | 1 month | 3 month | Dollar | Spot | 1 month | 3 month | Euro |
|--------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|------|
| UK | 1.0000 | | | 0.6117 | 0.6121 | 0.6123 | 0.6870 | |
| Australia | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Canada | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Denmark | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| France | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Germany | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Italy | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Japan | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Malaysia | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Netherlands | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| New Zealand | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Norway | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Portugal | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Saudi Arabia | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Singapore | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| South Africa | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| Switzerland | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |
| US | 2.5770 | 2.5755 | 2.5750 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.5165 | 1.7705 | |

INTEREST RATES

| UK | 5.50% | Discount | 5.25% | Repo (Ave) | 3.15% |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| Base | | | | | |
| European Central Bank | | Discount | 3.25% | Discount | 0.50% |
| O/N Marginal 4.50% | | Prime | 7.75% | Discount | 1.00% |
| O/N Facility 2.00% | | Discount | 4.50% | Discount | 1.00% |
| Canada | | Fed Funds | 4.75% | Discount | 1.31% |
| Prime | 6.75% | Sweden | | | |

BOND YIELDS

| Country | 3 mth | 6 mth | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr | 5 yr | 10 yr | chg |
|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Australia | 4.75 | 0.00 | 4.67 | -0.01 | 4.84 | 0.03 | 5.03 | 0.01 |
| Belgium | 7.58 | 0.00 | 2.83 | 0.00 | 3.12 | 0.00 | 3.63 | 0.00 |
| Canada | 4.83 | 0.00 | 5.00 | -0.01 | 5.02 | 0.01 | 5.08 | -0.01 |
| Denmark | 3.09 | -0.01 | 3.03 | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.41 | -0.01 |
| Euro | 3.09 | -0.01 | 3.03 | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.41 | -0.01 |
| France | 3.09 | -0.01 | 3.03 | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.41 | -0.01 |
| Germany | 3.09 | -0.01 | 3.03 | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.41 | -0.01 |
| Italy | 3.09 | -0.01 | 3.03 | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.41 | -0.01 |
| Japan | 0.13 | -0.04 | 0.15 | -0.04 | 0.35 | -0.07 | 1.16 | -0.08 |
| Netherlands | 3.09 | -0.01 | 3.03 | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.41 | -0. |

SPORT

Fruit of years of fudging and fear

EVER SINCE footballers stopped wearing bicycle clips and counting the notes in their wage packets, people have been saying that what England need is an inspirational manager who'll fill out the team sheet, give the players a slap on the back and a cheerful word, and send them out to enjoy themselves. Remember, they say, the careless rapture of Joe Mercer's brief term. And imagine what old Cloughie would have done, given the chance. According to this theory, it's not much more than a weekend job. Instead, we've been given a series of men bowed down by diagrams, dossiers and doubts even before they faced their first press conference.

But now, thanks to the Football Association's decision to appoint the free-wheeling Kevin Keegan as coach of the senior team for their next four games, the notion will finally be put to the test. Now we're going to find out whether or not heart-on-the-sleeve enthusiasm is what it really takes, and



RICHARD WILLIAMS

whether off-the-cuff enthusiasm can be more effective than full-time commitment.

Keegan is a terrific fellow, good at establishing rapport with players and fans, absolutely wholehearted in his enthusiasm. But whatever his virtues, and whatever the euphoria greeting the announcement, the odds must be against a happy ending to the venture.

The FA's conduct of the search

for Glenn Hoddle's successor has been lamentable, specifically in the tawdry use of controlled news leaks to test the reaction of possible candidates. If proof were needed that David Davies's talent belongs in the fantasy world of New Labour's spin-doctors, then the past fortnight has provided it.

Keegan, according to both Davies and Geoff Thompson, the FA's acting chairman, is the nation's choice. But what about Alex Ferguson, who was the FA's original target? And in their panic, they appear to have given in to just about all Keegan's demands. Including, or so we were told two days ago, a willingness to contemplate the idea of restricting the presence and influence of the technical director of the Football Association.

Howard Wilkinson, we were told in another of these leaks, would take no part in the activities of the England squad, and would not be invited to sit with them during international matches. This is a man who, only a week ago, was deemed suitable to

lead the team out at Wembley. This is a man entrusted with the development of young players in England – the man most responsible, in effect, for the future of English football. And already, even before the new management team have even collected their monogrammed tracksuits, he is said to be persona non grata.

The fact that Wilkinson is not the man to coach England's senior side is neither here nor there. Nor was the FA's hurried spin-doctoring of the leak once it had been published. Today Wilkinson will appear at the press conference at Keegan's side, and the two will no doubt attempt to paper over the crack. But the substance remains, and in this casual insult we see the true desperation of the FA's international committee. Here is the fruit of years of expediency, fudging, fear, vanity, and sheer bad judgement.

Look – as we must, if we really want to learn anything – at France, whose display at Wembley last

week was the performance of authentic world champions. The skill, strategic awareness and deep pride of those players was not the product of improvisation or expediency. It was the result of careful planning and diligent execution.

When Aimé Jacquet won the World Cup with this team last summer, he had an extra medal struck and presented it to Gérard Houllier, the technical director of the French Football Federation, in recognition of the supporting role Houllier and his department had played in a sustained and carefully co-ordinated campaign. Houllier had been his predecessor; now Jacquet has become technical director, while his own deputy, Roger Lemerre, has assumed control of the team.

Throughout the Nineties, these men led a team which revolutionised the coaching structure of French football, integrating every level from the very youngest children to the élite of the national team. The men at the centre of the

scheme were not flashy characters with big reputations as former players. They lacked obvious charisma. None of them could ever have been labelled "the nation's choice", in the sense that they would win tabloid popularity polls. But they are serious men with a belief that the only way to get results is to do the job with rigour, and with absolute co-operation at all levels.

They agreed on common aims, and they carried them out with immense determination – sometimes in the teeth of vicious criticism from influential voices in the French press. Their bosses never wavered in support. And it worked, providing a textbook example of what can be achieved through strategic planning, while demonstrating that such care need not be at the expense of expressive, even artistic football: that, indeed, it may become the artistic footballer's greatest resource. Just ask Zinedine Zidane.

More planning alone can't provide a guarantee of success, as the Ger-

mans will attest. But the Germans will also point out that it can give you a pretty good 30 years or so before you need to return to the drawing board. And if improvisation and inspiration are what's wanted, I would personally feel safer at Ronnie Scott's than Lancaster Gate.

Keegan will take the job on a tidal wave of goodwill. His own reaction to success and failure will reflect the fact that he is a creature of moods, and the more likely human for it. It will suit him that the short-term and part-time nature of the appointment takes a lot of the pressure off his shoulders. The excuses are built-in. He, and we, could be in for a lot of fun, or a lot of tears. This is, after all, the coach who put Asprilla and Ginola in the same team. But he is also the man who abolished Newcastle United's reserve team, without getting round to installing Sir John Hall's much-vaunted youth development scheme.

Inspiration and improvisation will have to do, then. Best of luck all round.

Gambler's instincts galvanise Keegan

Adventurer as both player and manager is prone to flashes of temper and faces roughest trip of them all. By Phil Shaw

IN A PREVIOUS incarnation, to use the terminology which turned into a trip-wire for Glenn Hoddle, Joseph Kevin Keegan OBE must have been an Indiana Jones or Captain Hook figure. For if there is one quality that defines his managerial style, and indeed his entire footballing career, it is his spirit of adventure. Many in his precarious profession – the Grey Hair Club, as Keegan memorably called it – disdain the concept for its gung-ho, devil-may-care connotations. George Graham visibly squirmed when, after Tottenham's FA Cup tie at Leeds last weekend, a reporter asked about their "adventures" in the mock-out competitions. Keegan positively embraces it in a way that sets him apart from any of England's eight previous managers.

As a player, Keegan always took risks in terms of where he would ply his trade. He left Liverpool, for instance, when they were just beginning to dominate Europe, plunging himself, his wife and two young daughters into an alien culture in Hamburg. Then he joined Southampton in preference to Juventus, a decision he admits he has not been able to rationalise, and after a thrilling swan-song at Newcastle he simply dropped out of sight, or on to the golf courses of Marbella.

Having been coaxed back to manage Newcastle, he embarked on his greatest escapade until England came calling. Throwing money at the transfer market and caution to the wind, he led one of the game's serial under-achievers to within touching distance of the Premiership title. It ended in glorious failure, but Keegan did not retreat to Spain again, instead pitching up at Fulham for another adventure: to fulfil the fanciful ambition of his owner, Mohamed al-Fayed, to become "the Manchester United of the South".

The curious aspect of Keegan's swashbuckling style is that his formative years were spent on the breadline – an existence which, in others, is calculated to encourage a cautious, safety-first approach to life and work. For example, the England manager who made him captain of his country, Don Revie, was born and bred in a poverty-stricken area of Middlesbrough, a fact which appeared to influence both the parsimonious way his teams played and what many observers saw as his obsessive attitude towards money.

Keegan was born, 48 years ago last week, into a mining family at Armthorpe in South Yorkshire. His late father, Joe, who had come "south" from Durham to find work in the pits, suffered from chronic bronchitis (although, intriguingly given his son's football philosophy, he

liked to gamble), while his grandfather, Frank, had saved 30 miners and a pit pony in a disaster in the early part of the century.

A family of five, they moved to a terraced house in the centre of Doncaster, where the young Keegan first sampled the cut and thrust of football in 25-a-side struggles in the narrow streets. He was good, but he was small. While working as a clerk in a brass works, he attended trials at both Coventry City and Doncaster Rovers, only to be rejected by both on size grounds. Instead of settling for being a good local footballer – he played three times every weekend – he set about adding strength to his prodigious stamina. Sustained weight training paid off in 1968 when Scunthorpe United signed him as an apprentice. A nippy striker, he quickly graduated to the first team and began attracting the top clubs.

Bill Shankly, the legendary Liverpool manager who himself hailed from the Ayrshire coalfield, saw his chance. On May Day 1971, he paid Scunthorpe £35,000, a sum he later described as "robbery with violence", and put Keegan on £45 a week. Even then the newcomer showed that he was nobody's fool, arguing that he felt he was worth more and settling for the then princely wage of £50.

In tandem with the towering John Toshack, his career blossomed. The following August he scored in front of the Kop 10 minutes into his debut; within 18 months he had won his first England cap; and three years after arriving at Anfield he had League champions, FA Cup and UEFA Cup winners' medals.

Most players would never have considered moving on at such a stage. Keegan, unfairly dismissed as a self-made rather than naturally gifted footballer, saw a move to Europe as a chance both to develop his technique and maximise his earning potential. His final game for Liverpool was the victorious European Cup final of 1977, after which he headed for the Bundesliga. After winning successive European Footballer of the Year awards, he joined Southampton in 1980, but there was to be no winding down.

His first coming at Newcastle, two years later, saw him score a debut winner and describe playing before "thousands of passionate Geordies" as an experience to equal anything in his life. But then Keegan's emotions have never been far from the surface; if Hoddle wore his mind on his sleeve, with calamitous consequences, Keegan has always pinned his heart there.

More often than not he is as bubbly as the perm he once sported. However, there is a darker side to his openness. Outbursts like the one he would famously direct against Alex



The Keegan years: Main picture: Spurring on Fulham. Clockwise from left: As a 14-year-old associate schoolboy with Tranmere Rovers; letting fly on television in 1996 after being riled by Alex Ferguson; minus his Liverpool shirt after being sent off in the 1974 Charity Shield against Leeds; kissing the FA Cup as Liverpool celebrate their 3-0 victory over Newcastle in 1974. Allsport/Mirror

Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, during the psychological duel which ran parallel to the championship run-in of 1996 are part of a pattern of volatile behaviour.

Though never a dirty player, he had a short fuse which led to his being sent off in one of his early appearances for the England Under-23 side. More dramatically, he was dismissed with Leeds' Billy Bremner after they came to blows in the

in his first squad, he announced his international retirement and did not refrain from criticising the new manager in the media.

After his seven-year self-imposed exile on the Spanish greens, during which he broke his silence only to vow that he would never become a football manager, he leapt at the invitation to take over at Newcastle seven years ago this month. Again, though, the Tyneside "Messiah"

earnest. They were promoted within 13 months, after which Keegan proclaimed with the bravado that so endeared him to the Toon Army: "Tell Alex (Ferguson) – we're coming to get him."

They nearly did, too, never more so than in 1996-97, when at one stage Newcastle led the Premiership by 12 points. They finished runners-up to Ferguson's United. For all his power to motivate and inspire players and fans, it was apparent that beneath the charisma and the refreshing willingness to attack, there were flaws in Keegan's ability to organise his team, especially in defence. In a tacit admission of his own shortcomings, he brought in Lawrenson, the former Liverpool centre-back, as specialist coach to the back four.

His relations with the media – whose capacity to break England managers is now beyond dispute – also soured. He refused to speak to the BBC for several weeks after what he saw as unfair questioning by Tony Gubba following a fracas between Faustino Asprilla and Manchester City's Keith Curle.

Soon he stopped seeing the local

press on a daily basis. After a defeat at bottom-placed Coventry, he hurried to the coach, stony-faced, skipping his usual charm offensive on the media. Within a fortnight, during which he looked morose even when Newcastle scored, he was gone.

When Keegan left St James' Park two years ago last month – pushed out to appease the City, he later suggested – he had still not brought significant silverware to Tyneside. At Fulham, where he arrived as al-Fayed's "chief operating officer", he was again unable to resist stepping back into the manager's role after parting with Ray Wilkins last May.

Keegan planned in time to step back into an "overseeing" role. Yet he takes training, sits on the bench at matches and is "Gaffer" to the players. He again spent freely, but has been less cavalier in his tactical approach. Last week, preparing the Second Division leaders for what proved a gallant FA Cup exit at Old Trafford, he was once more denying interest in a job he would ultimately be unable to resist. But the game, he argued, was all about adventures. The roughest and toughest of them all is only just beginning.

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO KING KEV

1979
I believe I can live with any situation in which I find myself. If I were going into the ring with Muhammad Ali, I'd honestly believe I deserved to be there. I wouldn't think of being knocked out, only of winning.

1979
Many people have helped me on my way, but only one person made me. That was Shankly (in praise of Bill Shankly).

1982
I'm finished with England. I'll never kick a ball for my country again. After 10 years and 60 caps, I deserve better than to learn of my omission indirectly through the media (after being left out of Bobby Robson's first squad).

1985
If anyone ever hears that Kevin Keegan is coming back to football full-time, they can laugh as much as I will. It will never happen. That is certain (leaving to live in Marbella).

1992
You hope and you pretend you know what you're doing (after entering management at Newcastle).

1995
As a manager you always have a gun to your head. The question is whether there's a bullet in the barrel (on selling Andy Cole).

1996
I would love it if we beat them (Manchester United). Just love it (after psychological warfare by Alex Ferguson).

1998
There's only one team that's going to win it now and that's England (as World Cup pundit, a minute before Romania scored winning goal).

1999
Whoever the FA have chosen, good luck to him. But it's not me, so I hope no one's had a bet on me (last week, insisting he was "not interested" in managing England).

... AND HOW OTHERS SEE HIM

1981
Kevin Keegan is the Julie Andrews of football (Duncan McKenzie).

1982
Skill-wise, he's not fit to lace my boots (George Best).

1993
As a player, Kevin had 75 per cent ability and 150 per cent fitness. He had to do it by hard work, and it influenced others when he became a manager (Tommy Smith).

1995
If Kevin fell into the Tyne he'd come up with a salmon in his mouth (Jack Charlton).

Sedgefield tragedy: RSPCA labels incident an 'unavoidable accident' but other welfare group condemns trainers

Animal Aid blames poor schooling

THE JOCKEY CLUB yesterday identified two possible causes of the head-on collision at Sedgefield on Tuesday afternoon which left three horses dead and a scene which, according to one of the jockeys involved, "was like a battlefield".

John Maxse, the Club's spokesman, said that a report on the incident had been received from the racecourse yesterday morning. In the opinion of the local stewards, "the first factor was a well-intentioned attempt to try and catch one of these horses, and the other was that the last race being a bumper, the horses had been dismantled, meaning that there was an obstacle-free run for these horses back down the racecourse. In the past it has been found that the hurdles act as an obstacle and help siphon off loose horses to the exit gates".

The collision occurred as the field in the novice chase was turning for home on the second and final circuit. Three riderless horses, which had all parted company with their jockeys at the first fence, had turned and galloped back up the course after the first circuit.

One of the riderless horses, Skane River, was among the fatalities, along with Floss The Boss and Royal Scimitar, from the main body of the field.

The death toll was the highest in a single race since last year's Grand National, and was not the first such incident to occur at Sedgefield.

Neale Doughty was seriously injured in a similar collision at the course in 1989, and earlier on Tuesday afternoon,

BY GREG WOOD

the novice hurdler Gus Cunningham refused and unseated his rider at the first, and then ran loose. A collision was avoided only by good fortune.

The scenes at Sedgefield received widespread coverage, both in the press and on television, prompting a number of animal welfare organisations to express their concern. Andrew Tyler, the director of Animal Aid, claimed yesterday that the horses concerned had been inadequately schooled. "The horses concerned were novices and it seems that they were not ready to jump."

Tyler went on: "It was a horribly stressful event for them. This was a particular incident which no doubt will be brushed aside by the authorities as an unfortunate one-off, but when the British public enjoy their racing, I would urge them to consider that more than 200 horses die on the track each year, and when their racing days are finished, there is no money from the racing authorities for a happy retirement, except for a happy few. Many of them end up in pet food."

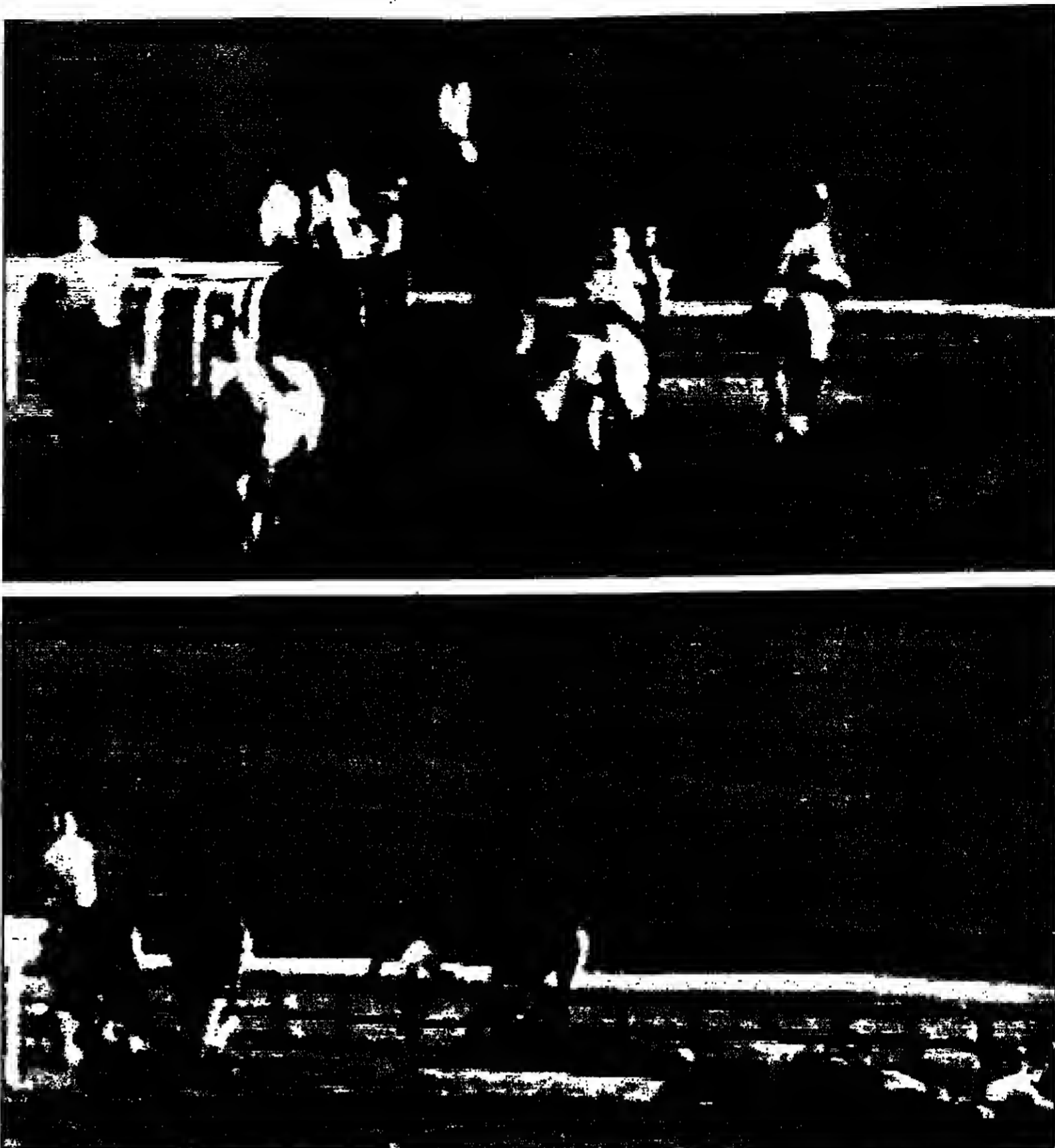
Bernard Donigan, an equine specialist with the RSPCA, said that "under normal circumstances, loose horses would leave the course at the exit gates. It was attempts to secure the loose horses which appeared to turn them away from the exit gates. Having viewed the video and read the interim report, it was an unavoidable accident which could not have been foreseen."

Ron Barry, the Jockey Club's inspector of courses, visited Sedgefield yesterday. "He hopes to identify ways in which the exit gates could be made more accessible to loose horses," Maxse said. "It's something we've already done at other courses. At Perth, for example, we've almost created a layby situation where the rail is realigned to take them towards the exit."

At Sedgefield on Tuesday, however, the horses did not get as far as the exit before turning around. "You can have all the safety measures in place in the world, but sometimes you can't legislate for loose horses," Maxse said. "They are a very unpredictable quantity."

The only cause for relief in Tuesday's incident was that none of the riders involved suffered serious injury. Lorcan Wyer, who was thrown several feet into the air when his mount Royal Scimitar collided with Skane River, rode in three races at Musselburgh yesterday afternoon. "Obviously crowd safety is paramount but one possibility is that they could create a new chute near the saddling boxes and horses' boxes as that is the area where the loose horses tend to go," he said.

The Jockey Club's inquiry into the incident will now continue. "Obviously I can't speculate on what the results might be," Maxse said. "The full findings will be available to the public at some stage. I will know later in the week whether any changes will be implemented before the next meeting. If it were possible, then they would be."



The pictures beamed into betting shops nationwide of the novices' chase at Sedgefield on Tuesday in which three loose horses collided with the rest of the field. The jockey Lorcan Wyer (top) was thrown 10 feet into the air. The incident resulted in the deaths of three horses

Jones fined after Gunner's long-shot victory

A TRAINER was fined £210 by the stewards at Folkestone yesterday after Surprise Gunner won the fourth race at 20-1. Merritt Jones, based at Lambourn, was called in by the stewards after the nine-year-old romped home in Bilsington Handicap Hurdle.

They asked her to explain the horse's improved form compared with his previous run - at Ludlow on 10 December - where he had been beaten in excess of 120 lengths. The stewards noted the trainer's explanation, but since she had failed to report that Surprise Gunner had been struck into during the Ludlow

race they took action over her failure to abide by Jockey Club instruction H14.

Before visiting the stewards, Mrs Jones said: "He got struck into badly and he lost his confidence quite badly. He's a brave little horse."

The Folkestone stewards were also in action after the first race, the Burmarsh Novices' Hurdle, in which the Paul Webber-trained Running Man, an 6-11 favourite, was pulled up. Webber was unable to shed any light on Running Man's flop and the stewards called for a vet to give the horse an endoscopic examination.

The race was won by Arctic

Fancy, who is to be trained by Julian Smyth-Osbourne's first runner at the Cheltenham Festival. Betting on the Gold Cup at the Festival was shaken up yesterday following news that

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Broganier
(Sunderland 4.30)
NB: Maurachas
(Taunton 4.20)

Cyfor Malta will miss the remainder of the season with a leg injury.

The Martin Pipe-trained six-year-old had been a 10-1 chance in William Hill's list for the

Cheltenham showpiece after his victory in the Grade Two Pillar Property Chase at Prestbury Park last month.

A rule change allowed six-year-olds to compete in the Martell Grand National this year and Cyfor Malta, who was given 11st 4lb in the Aintree weights unveiled last week, was a 10-1 shot for the National with Hills.

But Cyfor Malta, winner of the Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham and John Hughes Trophy at Aintree last year, has some heat in a foreleg.

David Johnson, in whose colours Cyfor Malta runs, explained: "If the Gold Cup had

been two months or more away, he would probably have been OK, but the vets said it would have been 50-50 if we had kicked on, and as he is only six and his future is ahead of him, I decided it would be fairest to put him away for the season."

"I am absolutely gutted, to say the least, as the news came as a shock to me, as I really did think he would have taken all the beating in the Gold Cup, and I had backed him accordingly."

Hills later cut Dorcas Pride to 8-1 from 9-1 for the Gold Cup and also shortened the Pipe-trained Hanakham from 53-1 to 25-1.

Nicky Henderson said last

night that Barna Boy (County Hurdle) and Ebullient Equine (Stakks Casinos Final) will both represent their owner Lynn Wilson, the Northamptonshire cricket club chairman, at the Festival.

Both go straight to Cheltenham, where Barna Boy will be looking to extend his impressive Festival sequence. The winner of the County Hurdle in 1997, he was fourth in that race last year and was also fourth in the Coral Cup in 1996.

Henderson added: "Barna Boy will have a racecourse gallop, while I was very pleased with Ebullient Equine's second at Uttoxeter the other day."

SANDOWN

HYPERION

1.50 Neat Feet 3.25 Tom Brodie
2.20 Stapsaldebey (nb) 3.55 Avastar
2.50 Salamah 4.30 Ezanek

GOING: Good (Hurdle course - Good to Soft in places).
Right-hand course: seven leading fences along back straight; run-in of 300yds.
Course on an A/C: 4m S of Kingston. Esher station (service from London Waterloo) opens course. Check brochure for all prices. ADMISSION: Club £16, Junior Club £7.75 (10-17). Grandstand & Paddock £10. Park enclosure £5. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: O. Nicholson 21-59 (22.2%), J. Clid 18-53 (34%), M. Henderson 14-96 (44.3%), P. Hebble 13-51 (25.3%), J. Gifford 12-102 (107%), P. Nicholson 12-38 (31%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: R. Dwyer 31-125 (24.9%), A. P. McCoy 20-102 (56.9%), A. G. B. 10-102 (56.9%), J. L. 10-102 (56.9%), J. L. 10-102 (56.9%).
FAVOURITES: 121 wins from 348 races (success rate 34.8%).
LONGEST DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tom Brodie (325) has been sent 282 miles.
QUINER FIRST TIME: Palsom (breed 430), Ezanek (430).

1.50 'FREE CHIPS ALL DAY' CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS 'CAP HURDLE' (E) £4,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,918

1-3-4 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
2-5-10 PUNTING PETS (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
3-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
4-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
5-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
6-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
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2.20 REG HOPKINS & TONY KING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (E) £2,500 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,597

1-3-4 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
2-5-10 PUNTING PETS (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
3-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
4-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
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3.25 LONDESBOURGH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £2,500 added 2m 2m Penalty Value £7,935

1-3-4 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
2-5-10 PUNTING PETS (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
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8-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
9-10-10 NEAT FEAT (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).
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FIRST SHOW

TAUNTON 4.20

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2-5-10 PUNTING PETS (21) (J. Clid) 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%), J. Clid 10-102 (56.9%).

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Anelka hits out at 'clans at Arsenal'

FOOTBALL
BY TOMMY STANFORTH

here and we have nothing to say to each other."

The temperamental former Paris St-Germain player, who scored both goals in France's 2-0 friendly win over England at Wembley last week, told the magazine: "There are clans at Arsenal. I speak a bit of English now but we never speak much with the English. We have nothing to do with each other. We play together, but afterwards we go our own way. There are 33-year-old, 37-year-old guys

St-Germain, but last week, though, he denied that he wanted to leave the London side.

Celtic have beaten out competition from the entire English Premiership to sign Scotland's highly rated Under-15 captain, Mark Forster.

The talented midfielder turned down a personal plea from the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, after training with the Old Trafford club, as well as Newcastle, Chelsea and Everton. He received inquiries from all 20 Premiership sides - but chose

to sign for the club he has supported all his life.

"Mark is probably the most sought-after kid of his age in the country and we are delighted to get him," said Celtic's assistant coach, Eric Black. "He was offered terms by a number of big clubs down south, but we were able to persuade him to come to Celtic instead." Forster, who is still at school in Dundee and will join Celtic full-time in December.

The Middlesbrough striker Brian Deane has been ruled out for four weeks with a medial lig-

ament injury. The former Leeds United forward was injured in a training match at the Riverside Stadium last Friday, which had been arranged because Middlesbrough had a free weekend. Deane has scored five goals since joining Middlesbrough from Benfica in October.

Administrators running hard-up Portsmouth have cancelled the weekly order of new jockstraps for the players in an attempt to save money. The First Division club had previously ordered brand new pairs

Goodison waits for Kenwright

BY JOHN NISBET

Peter Johnson's shares, and look at the financial situation we are in and build for the future.

"That is taking time and there are lots of people involved, not only on Peter's side but my side too. This will be the biggest-ever Premier League club takeover, whether I do it or whether someone else comes along and does it. I know I have got to get it right."

"But the one thing I don't know is who else Peter Johnson is talking to. I have no idea whether there is anyone else out there. I read things about South African companies and Turkish companies, I don't know whether any of that is true. I have to just take my time and make my bid."

The Aston Villa goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, is likely to make his comeback against Coventry City on 27 February - five months after injuring his shoulder against the Sky Blues at Highfield Road. Villa's manager, John Gregory, is also waiting to see if his central defender, Ugo Ehiogu, will need surgery to repair the fractured eye socket suffered in a clash with Newcastle's Alan Shearer.

Bosnich is stepping up his rehabilitation programme and the big test will come within a week, when he attempts to dive for the first time on the troublesome shoulder which required an operation in December. "Mark is doing most of the things a goalkeeper does, like handling and collecting crosses, and everything is going along fine from that point of view," said Gregory. "But the test will come when he starts diving around and going down on the shoulder. Then we will see if it is capable of standing up to that sort of pressure."



Chris Mullins (right), of the Indiana Pacers, tries to drive around the Miami Heat guard Rex Walters

Robinson's jump-shot lifts Bucks

BASKETBALL

shooting and was ejected after being called for two technical fouls in the final quarter. The Pacers were led by Chris Mullins' 16 points.

Steve Smith scored 17 points and Alan Henderson added 14 as Atlanta downed Chicago 83-67. Chicago got 27 points and 10 points from Toni Kukoc, but it wasn't enough to keep the Bulls from dropping to 1-5, their worst start since 1978-79. They have lost four successive games at home for the first time since 1993-94, in the days when Michael Jordan was off playing baseball.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 19 points and 11 rebounds and led a key third-quarter charge as Houston ended Phoenix's nine-game winning streak with a 109-92 victory. Olajuwon got plenty of help from Scottie Pippen, who had 19 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists. Phoenix had six players in double figures, led by Tim Lincecum and Jason Kidd with 14 each.

A cocktail waitress who accused Dennis Rodman of grabbing her breast cannot mention previous lawsuits against him in her own suit, a judge ruled on Tuesday. But the woman, Susan Patterson, did win a ruling that allows her to keep a claim of emotional distress in her lawsuit.

Patterson also accused Rodman of assault, battery, negligence and false imprisonment. The former Chicago Bulls star, who appears close to signing with the Los Angeles Lakers, is accused of jamming a \$100 note down Patterson's blouse and grabbing her breast. Patterson seeks general and punitive damages, which would be determined at trial. No date was set.

Turner given six-game ban for tackle

RUGBY LEAGUE

THE SHEFFIELD EAGLES forward Darren Turner will miss the first month of Super League after being handed a six-match ban. The hooker or second-row forward received the hefty suspension, along with a £500 fine, for "highly dangerous action" during the Eagles' 16-6 Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round defeat at Salford on Saturday.

Turner was sent to the sin bin by the referee, John Connolly, for an off-the-ball challenge on the Salford full-back Gary Broadbent, who was upended as he tried to collect a high ball. He was subsequently charged with misconduct by the League's executive committee and referred to the game's disciplinary chiefs, who ruled that the player was guilty of "obstruction, not in the spirit of the game."

Turner, who has already served a one-match ban for a reckless high tackle on the Wakefield stand-off Tony Kemp during a pre-season friendly, also faces the likelihood of further punishment from the League for allegedly making an offensive gesture to the crowd as he left the field on Saturday.

Super League has a new internet site. The address is www.superleague-europe.co.uk and includes a guide to the clubs, keeps supporters up to date with the latest news and has full-screen animation and audio.

SPORTING DIGEST

- ATHLETICS**
Dana Cervantes, the Spanish pole vaulter, has tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone at the European Championships in Budapest in August.
- INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY MEETINGS**
Australia 1-0 New Zealand (1st Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (2nd Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (3rd Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (4th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (5th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (6th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (7th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (8th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (9th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (10th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (11th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (12th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (13th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (14th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (15th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (16th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (17th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (18th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (19th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (20th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (21st Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (22nd Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (23rd Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (24th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (25th Test); New Zealand 1-0 Australia (26th Test); 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SPORT

IRISH SEND FOR WOODS P25 • WYER'S MIRACLE ESCAPE P26



The England succession: 'Nation's choice' will take on a dual role for next four games as the FA's search continues

Keegan's caretaker challenge

BY PHIL SHAW

KEVIN KEEGAN was duly confirmed as the England coach in succession to Glenn Hoddle last night - but only for the next four matches rather than on the widely predicted four-year contract.

In an unexpected twist to a saga that was starting to become as protracted as the Hoddle affair, the Football Association's acting chief executive, David Davies, admitted that Keegan remained unwilling to break his contract as Fulham's chief operating officer.

However, Davies said that Keegan was "delighted" to be given the chance to combine both roles on a temporary basis. He dismissed suggestions that it was a fudged arrangement - a caretaker replacing a caretaker - which left the national side in limbo.

The FA had hoped to unveil Keegan as England's ninth manager on a deal taking him through until after the World Cup finals in 2002. Instead, in perhaps the first compromise of Keegan's career, the former England captain will take charge only until June, starting with the must-win European Championship fixture against Poland at Wembley on 27 March.

Contrary to previous reports, Keegan will also be at the helm for the friendly in Hungary a month later, before bowing out after further Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria. In the meantime, said Davies, putting a brave face on disappointment that must have bordered on embarrassment, the search for a full-time successor would begin immediately.

Davies added: "Over almost three days of discussions with the FA, Kevin indicated that he did not wish to be considered for the England job beyond June. He is committed to completing his contract with Fulham, which runs out in 2000. I've been speaking to Kevin again this evening and he said he was absolutely delighted. He is committed to Fulham, but he believes he can do a successful job for the England team as well. He told me it would be a great thrill to work with everyone connected with the national team."

"We respect his wish to complete his existing contract. We



Kevin Keegan takes his Fulham players for training at the Bank of England Club in Roehampton yesterday, just hours before he was put in temporary charge of England

David Ashdown

have been determined to do everything possible to give the players the best chance of qualifying for Euro 2000. I'm convinced that's what we've done."

When it was suggested to Davies that Keegan's solution to the ultimate club-versus-country conundrum had left England in limbo, he replied: "We've got the nation's choice leading us in some crucial games. We wanted to get the best person for the job in the situation we're in, and we've got that. We have to live in the real world. Kevin has made clear what his wishes are - and we respect them."

Nevertheless, the short-term "fix" poses as many questions as it answers. If, for example, England were to win all four games under the 48-

year-old Keegan and revive public enthusiasm in the process, would such a heart-on-the-sleeve patriot be able to turn his back on his country for the sake of a club who may still be in the Second Division?

And what about the pressures that a winning sequence under "the people's choice" would put on the manager-in-waiting, who would come into the job in the knowledge that he had not been the FA's first choice anyway? These issues, as well as how Keegan plans to work with Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director and interim England coach, will be addressed at a London press conference this afternoon.

Meanwhile, John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, made

what proved to be a timely endorsement of Terry Venables yesterday. Speaking before the FA announcement, Gregory admitted that Keegan would not have been his choice to guide England. "My original thought

when the job became vacant was that Terry would be ideal for it, and I will stick to that," said Gregory. He believed England's need was not for a manager who was good at the "daily involvement of handling players", but for a coach to prepare the squad for specific matches. "There's no one better than Terry, but I'm also an admirer of Kevin's. He would be the ideal second choice for his passion, enthusiasm and... bulldog spirit."

Bobby Robson, one of three England managers Keegan

served, has warned that it will be difficult for him to dovetail his duties with club and country. Robson, now with PSV Eindhoven, said: "My opinion is that if Kevin is to take the job, then he should do it full-time."

"When I took the England job and had to leave Ipswich, I was so happy at the club that I suggested to Bert Millichip [then FA chairman] that maybe I could do both jobs. But he said: 'I don't think so.' Robson, who said it took him six weeks to realise that managing England was "not a part-time job", stressed how important it was that Keegan and the FA's technical director, Wilkinson, gelled.

Richard Williams, page 24
Keegan must go, Review, page 3

KEEGAN: FROM ARMTHORPE TO LANCASTER GATE

1951: Born Armthorpe, Yorkshire, 14 February.
1967: Joined Scunthorpe United as apprentice.
1968: Signed professional in December.
1971: Transferred to Liverpool for £25,000 in May.
1972: England debut v Wales in Cardiff.
1977: Transferred to German Bundesliga club SV Hamburg for £500,000.
1980: Transferred to Southampton for £420,000.
1982: Last England game as substitute v Spain in Madrid during World Cup finals. Won 63 caps, scored 21 goals, captained England 31 times.
1982: Transferred to Newcastle for £100,000.
1984: Retired from playing after helping Newcastle win promotion back to old First Division after six-year absence.

1992: After eight years out of the game and living in Spain, returned to football in February as manager of Newcastle.
1993: Newcastle promoted to Premier League as First Division champions.
1994: Keegan appointed Director of Football and agreed new deal to take him to St James' Park club for next 10 years.
1996: Despite leading the club by 12 points at one stage, Newcastle collapsed to finish runners-up to Manchester United in Premier League. In the summer breaks world transfer record by paying Blackburn Rovers £15m for England striker Alan Shearer.
1997: Resigned as manager of Newcastle on 8 January, following dispute with club over financial plans after Stock Exchange flotation. On 25 September joins Fulham as "Chief Operating Officer", with former England colleague Ray Wilkins taking charge of team affairs.

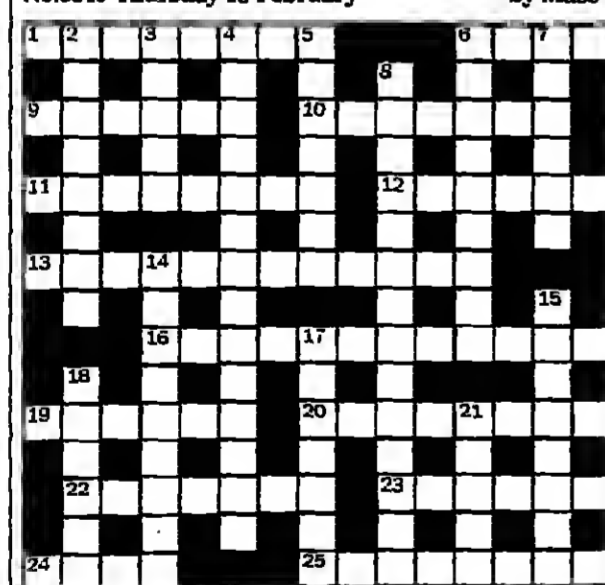
1998: Takes over team control on 7 May after Wilkins is sacked. Fulham reach Second Division play-offs, but fail to win promotion.
1999: Appointed England coach on 17 February - but only for four games.

HONOURS

Liverpool: Football League championship medals 1972-73, 75-76, 76-77. FA Cup winners 1974. FA Cup runners-up 1977. European Cup winners 1977. UEFA Cup winners 1973, 76. Footballer of the Year 1975-76.
Hamburg: Bundesliga Player of the Year 1978. Bundesliga champions 1979. European Cup runners-up 1980. European Footballer of the Year 1977-78, 78-79.
Southampton: FFA Player of the Year 1981-82.
Newcastle United (as manager): First Division champions 1992-93. First Division manager of the season 1992-93. Premier League runners-up 1995-96.

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3849 Thursday 18 February by Mass



- ACROSS**
- 1 Turned out right huskybody (8)
 - 6 One could be head of staff that's almost divided (4)
 - 9 Cabins (temporary dwellings) around river (6)
 - 10 Get out, quick! (7)
 - 11 Four miles outside developing inflammations (8)
 - 12 Pound in condition (King Edward) (6)
 - 13 Conveying suspense in a sentence? (12)
 - 16 Report of a wild cat, we hear, encountered round North (12)
 - 19 Was candidate for Party male? Not specified (6)
 - 20 Stunts upright lopped
- DOWN**
- 2 Arctic goddess of fate's concealing the end for explorer (8)
 - 3 Reduce pay (5)
 - 4 Source of beef? (14)
 - 5 Meets demands? Is in the balance, having nothing (5,2)
 - 6 Cast clay's cracked - piece of Ming's a disaster (9)
 - 7 The Spanish regular team (6)
 - 8 Instrument's rendering

Wednesday's solution

REDAURRES GUMES
LIVIC ANCHUP
DONGHREPE
SUPERSONIC DRILL
HAMANS
PATINOLY GONDOLA
S E R V I C E
BISHOPS BOWSHOT
HLEA PHEALAINS
S E R V I C E
ACQUAINTANCE USING
Y E S U E G O R
FILLIAT PAIRICHMENT

- IONIAN OP. WITHOUT HARMONY (5-9)**
- 14 Go! (5,4)
 - 15 Asks to have trendy vocalists on radio (8)
 - 17 Left in a European port without freight (7)
 - 16 Bidder about to go to France (6)
 - 21 Second expert in the dark? (5)

Country wants him - Venables

BY STEVEN BAKER

THERE WAS a widespread welcome for the appointment of Kevin Keegan as temporary England coach last night.

The former England coach Terry Venables, who would have liked another period in the job himself, was positive.

"I think Kevin will be a very, very good appointment," the consultant to Crystal Palace said. "There's no doubt the country wants him, and he's a very popular guy."

Fulham fans expressed their delight that Keegan will be in charge for four games only.

David Lloyd, editor of the fanzine *There's Only One F in Fulham*, said: "We're dead chuffed that he's honouring his contract, and you could say it's a case of Fulham lending Eng-

land the manager. He's in a no-lose situation, because if he does the business he's the hero, and if he doesn't it's the previous regime's fault."

Arsène Wenger believes the part-time arrangement must be strictly temporary.

"It is only possible for Keegan to be involved with both England and Fulham in the short term, maybe to the end of the season," the Arsenal manager said.

"Even then it is difficult because he has to walk away in the middle of a season from a club that is trying to win promotion to be with England when they want him. And to do that on a longer-term basis, I would say it cannot be done at all."

Doubts have been raised as to Keegan's emotional suitability for the job, but his former England and Southampton team-mate Mick Channon believes he will cope with the immense pressure.

"The 'I would love it' outburst, when Newcastle and Manchester United were going for the Premiership title in 1996, has prompted many to argue Keegan cannot handle being in the spotlight for example, but Channon said: "The pressure won't be a problem. He's better at coping with pressure than anyone."

"There's nothing wrong with having a bit of pride in what you do."

The Press have rows with people every day of their lives and just because he had a row with Alex Ferguson doesn't mean there's something wrong with his character."

For Channon, there is only one man for the job. "He's the obvious choice," he said of Keegan. "He gets on with people and he's enthusiastic. He gets on with big names. He tries to win games and he's not frightened of getting beat. He's the obvious one - if he wants it and the media want him. The media are the worst if something goes wrong."

"But whatever he does he'll be good at because he puts everything into it. He could build greenhouses, he could do whatever he tried because if he goes into something he does it with enthusiasm."

Keegan's former club, Newcastle, also backed his appointment. A brief statement read:

"The Board of directors at Newcastle United wish Kevin Keegan all the very best and we are sure he will do a magnificent job."

John Harris, spokesman for the Independent Newcastle United Supporters' Association, welcomed Keegan's appointment as part-time England boss.

He said: "I think Kevin Keegan is made to measure for the England job. Five or six years ago, he said he was only interested in two jobs: Newcastle and England. He's done one and I'm sure he can do the other."

"He's the best choice of all the candidates, there's no doubt about that. I think he will get the best out of the England players. England need a Midas touch, and Keegan is the one man who can provide it."

How the story unfolded Punters put on hold by cautious bookies

THE TIMETABLE

2 February: Glenn Hoddle is sacked after his comments on the disabled and reincarnation. Kevin Keegan is 4-1 second favourite behind FA technical director Howard Wilkinson, who is appointed caretaker coach.

February 3: Keegan rules himself out of the running for the first time.

February 10: England are beaten 2-0 by world champions France at Wembley. Wilkinson insists the FA must name their man well before the Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland. "From the point of view of the team's prospects it is crucial that the team knows, or the FA knows, where we are going for that game," Wilkinson says.

February 11: Renewed calls for Keegan see Fulham's chief operating officer, with 18 months

to run in his Fulham contract, insist: "I'm staying here. There is no way I will leave Fulham. Mr al-Fayed gave me a budget of millions and the freedom of the club. And that means more to me than the England job. The timing's just not right." Despite his comments, bookmakers report a rush of bets on Keegan. "I've heard what he's said and he can deny he's interested until he's red, white and blue in the face. People who put that sort of money on aren't guessing," says a William Hill spokesman.

February 12: Former England No 2 Lawrie McMenemy claims Keegan has "all the attributes" required for the top job. "The timing is wrong - but it is over the right time."

February 13: Acting FA

chairman Geoff Thompson hints that Keegan has the charisma to lift England's squad for the Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland on 27 March. "I think you're making a case for Keegan there. I agree with you."

February 14: Fulham lose 1-0 to Manchester United in the FA Cup fifth round, and Keegan admits for the first time he would be prepared to listen to the FA. "I will talk to them - I never said I wouldn't." Fulham owner Mohamed al-Fayed gives the FA approval to talk to Keegan.

February 15: Noel White, the head of the FA's international committee, and David Davies, the FA's interim executive director, meet Keegan for two hours of talks.

February 17: The FA announces that Keegan is England coach for the next four games.

BOOKMAKERS WERE

last night refusing to pay out to the punters who have backed Kevin Keegan to be the next England manager because he has not been given the job on a permanent basis.

Most layers are waiting until today's press conference before updating their betting on a race which, in their eyes, is still on, although a spokesman for Coral, while describing the Football Association's announcement as "unsatisfactory from a betting point of view", said the firm will examine the FA's statement before deciding whether to pay out on Keegan.

However, last night William Hill refused prices, making Keegan 6-4 favourite to land the

BY IAN DAVIES

job permanently after his four-match stint ends.

Roy Hodgson is their 5-1 second favourite with Alex Ferguson, who might become free at the end of the season, down to 8-1 joint third favourite along with Bryan Robson, David Platt and Martin O'Neill. Hills then bet: 10-1 Terry Venables, 12-1 Arsène Wenger, and 14-1 John Gregory. Howard Wilkinson, 5-4 favourite just over a week ago, is now 20-1 along with the former England manager, Bobby Robson.

Keegan was the focus of punters' attention last Thursday, being backed from 9-2 down to 4-6 before bookmakers suspended betting on him.

THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Go Hillary!

She stood by her principles. She stood by her man. And now she's standing for the Senate. Or so it has been rumoured. Whatever you think about Hillary, she is probably the last best hope for the restoration of dignity to the Clinton name. And to American politics

Just when you thought that the epic of the President, his girlfriend, his wife and their lawyers had finally played itself out, White House Pictures has come out with an inspirational cliff-hanger of an epilogue. Will the wronged wife take to the campaign trail on her own account? Could she take her place in the very body that voted 50-50 to remove her husband from office? Will Bill, chastened puppy-dog that he is, redeem himself by cheering her on?

In short, will Hillary Rodham Clinton run for the US Senate? Without a pause to catch their breath, audiences across America are responding: "Yes, Yes and Yes! Go Girl!"

And the lady herself, the object of all this enthusiasm? When the clamour this week became too loud to ignore, she said she would think about it. Or rather, in the delicate wording of a statement issued late on Tuesday, "I will give careful thought to a potential candidacy in order to reach a decision later this year." America, agog for a new thrill after a rollercoaster year, must wait and see.

In this land of great opportunity and great projects, which agonises endlessly about the role of women in public life, there would be something both poetic and heroic about Hillary Clinton running for the Senate - which is exactly why the idea has taken wing. Back in November, when Daniel Pat Moynihan, the venerated Democratic senator for New York State, announced that he would not stand at the next election in two years' time, Mrs Clinton's name was not mentioned. To be sure, Moynihan's seat was considered a plum for any Democrat, but it would also be hard fought. The Democrats had just wrested the second New York Senate seat from the tenacious Republican senator, Alphonse d'Amato. The Republicans, and perhaps even Mr d'Amato himself, would be desperate to recoup the loss in 2000.

Mrs Clinton's name flashed on to the screens initially because she had been largely responsible for Al d'Amato's defeat, visiting New York repeatedly to raise funds and campaign.

What is more, New Yorkers had embraced her with huge enthusiasm at every level: from Democratic Party donors (a crucial constituency) to immigrant taxi-drivers, to suburban housewives. Mrs Clinton was admired for her self-starting toughness, her get-up-and-go, her resilience and independence. The leading lights of the Democratic Party, among them the New Jersey senator Robert Torricelli, noted this affinity and sowed the seed of the idea. After all, New York Democrats needed a celebrity and they needed a winner, and Mrs Clinton could be both.

Mrs Clinton initially kept a judicious silence - her husband was, after all, in the middle of being impeached for lying about an adulterous relationship with a White House trainee. Perhaps in frustration, or more probably because the idea was just too delicious to pass over, the bandwagon rolled of its own accord. One seasoned commentator ventured in *The New York Times* that a "dream contest" for the Senate in 2000 would be Hillary Clinton v Rudolph Giuliani: the tigress wife of the President of the United States versus the bulldog Republican mayor of New York City. That was it: so far as the media were concerned, the horses were already at the starting gate. Small matter that neither Mrs Clinton nor Mayor Giuliani had announced their intentions.

When Mr Clinton was acquitted last week and the Monica Lewinsky affair was consigned to the past, the Hillary-Rudy battle for New York, with its potential for glitz and personality and politics-to-the-death, filled the gap. What had begun as little more than a few quips over cocktails had developed a life of its own. Last weekend's television talk shows, which have thrived for a year on Bill and Monica, turned their attention to Hillary. With that came endorsements from all sides.

The White House chief of staff, John Podesta, surprised his interviewer by taking the question seriously and saying he thought that if she ran, she would win. So, no less surprisingly, did Pat Moynihan. A senator of the old school, who was rumoured to be not best pleased that Hillary Clinton might succeed him, and then to be miffed that she was taking so long to make up her mind, he said he thought she would be an excellent candidate and that she would win. The polls give her a margin of five points or more over Giuliani in a hypothetical contest.

Through this crescendo of wishful thinking there has been no suggestion at all that Mrs Clinton put herself in the frame for the New York Senate seat, still less that her husband put her up to it. Her political activity in recent years - with the one unhappy exception of her failed health service reform bill - has been to support her husband and Democratic candidates for Congress. Although she was known among her contemporaries at Yale as a formidable political activist on the left, she gave up campaigning on her own account when her husband first succeeded in his bid for political office in Arkansas, and became the family's main breadwinner instead.

Bill Clinton seems genuinely bemused by the prospect of his wife as senator, but by no means hostile. Answering questions from reporters during his visit to Mexico this week, he said he thought she would make "a terrific senator" if she chose to run, but that the decision had to be hers alone. He said that the thought had "never crossed her mind" before others started mentioning it, and that she had not had time to turn her attention to it - for reasons which he sensibly did not broach. He also said that if she did run, he would support her "enthusiastically" - the first tantalising hint that we could see Bill Clinton singing his wife's praises on the campaign trail next year, paying back some of the loyalty and conviction she has applied to getting him elected over more than two decades.

Mr Clinton's ramblings on the subject were almost the first spontaneous utterances he had made on any subject after a year in which his every syllable, dot and comma seemed to have been approved by a dozen lawyers before he spoke.

By yesterday, the spinmeisters at the White House - who know a good thing when they see one - started to play up the prospect. There was talk of how Mr Clinton saw a reversal of roles as a chance for "redemption", to make it up to his wife for all the hurt he had inflicted. More sceptical souls theorised that the togetherness of the Clintons on the mooted New York run provides a welcome carapace for them as they await some of the more gruesome sequels of the Monica Lewinsky affair: Monica's book, Monica's television interviews, Monica's promotional tour.

It is unprecedented for the First Lady to make a bid for public office - a thing none of her predecessors would have dreamt of - still less, except perhaps in the case of Eleanor Roosevelt, for her to be qualified for it. But in a revealing contribution to the question of this wife's prospects in New York, Mr Clinton said that she had not yet had time to talk to the people who thought she should run, and - "perhaps more important - to those who think he shouldn't".

No one doubts Mrs Clinton's stamina or her resilience. She has demonstrated both in ample measure over the years she has been in the White House, especially in the past year. She has proved, too, her capacity to fight, and she has no weaknesses in the field of policy. Unusually for a woman, especially a woman in American politics, she has surmounted the appearance factor. People listen to what she has to say now, without first appraising her hair, her make-up or her suit.

And boy, would she need that resilience. If she chose to run, she would face unpleasant questions of a personal and political kind. There would doubtless be men, and women, who would ask whether she had "failed" as a wife. Her political skill would be called into question, especially her plans for health reform which failed, in part, because of her naivete about the need for political consensus.

All the investigations of the past years would be revisited: the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas which lost money she invested; the spectacular gains she made on a cattle futures investment courtesy of a family friend; and the "Travelgate" affair in which she was blamed for the disbanding of the White House office travel staff.

Despite exhaustive investigations of each of these - and the formal questioning of Mrs Clinton on her role in Whitewater - no charges have been brought. The independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, even conceded during the Lewinsky investigation that his other Clinton inquiries had so far turned up nothing incriminating. Even if Mrs Clinton is in the clear, however, more of the mud may have stuck to her name than to that of her husband so far as money matters are concerned - if only because she was the lawyer and main investor in these ventures.

While this may presage a difficult and contentious campaign, there is no suggestion that Mrs Clinton would crumble. After all, what unknown horrors can a political campaign hold compared to those of learning of your husband's infidelity, detail by gruesome detail, in the full glare of the world's media?

The two bigger questions about Mrs Clinton's candidacy are propriety and winnability. The propriety of a First Lady running for elected office while her husband is still president is obviously untested, but could produce tricky conflicts. Who pays for her transport and security? Is she travelling as First Lady or as candidate? What if her policy pitches conflict with those of her husband, who will be out campaigning not just for her, but for his current Vice-President, Al Gore?

The bigger question is whether Hillary can win. This winter she is riding as high as any First Lady ever. The voters, with the memory of her heroism in the Monica Lewinsky scandal fresh in their minds, are falling at her feet. Party fundraisers see dollar signs in her eyes. Almost two years, though, is a very long time in American politics. The mood of the country could change. If it turns against her husband, it could turn against her. New York could drop her as capriciously as it embraced her. She lacks any local power base, and her stated support for a Palestinian state last year alienated many Jewish voters.

For an "ordinary" candidate to fight and lose would be no dishonour. But the loss to Mrs Clinton from failure could be greater. To run for New York, she would be sacrificing the other opportunities - to raise money, to earn money, to support good causes - that will come her way when her term in the White House ends. To lose in New York could reduce her "price" and limit her opportunities. It could also close two other Senate doors that might open after her husband leaves office: in her home state of Illinois and her adopted state of Arkansas.

Just this once, though, the canny and cautious Mrs Clinton might throw caution to the wind, seize the moment, and run for New York. Hillary for senator against the backdrop of the Statue of Liberty. Bill leads the cheers. What a poster, what a campaign pitch, what a race. Run, Hillary, Run!

make "a terrific senator" if she chose to run, but that the decision had to be hers alone. He said that the thought had "never crossed her mind" before others started mentioning it, and that she had not had time to turn her attention to it - for reasons which he sensibly did not broach. He also said that if she did run, he would support her "enthusiastically" - the first tantalising hint that we could see Bill Clinton singing his wife's praises on the campaign trail next year, paying back some of the loyalty and conviction she has applied to getting him elected over more than two decades.

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|---------------|---------------------|-----|----------|-------|----------|-------|--------------|------------------|
| INSIDE | Letters | 2 | Features | 8 | Law | 14 | Satellite TV | 17 |
| | Leaders and comment | 3-5 | Arts | 9 | Listings | 15-16 | Radio | 17 |
| | Obituaries | 6-7 | Film | 10-11 | Games | 17 | Today's TV | 18 |
| | | | | | | | | EDUCATION |

PANDORA

MASSIVE ATTACK may have missed out at the Brit Awards, but they can console themselves with the news that they have royal assent. A friend of Pandora's was recently working on the site of Chatsworth House, home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, while Prince Charles and Camilla were guests. Workers were told to keep their music down unless it was Elvis - the Duchess's favourite. Inevitably, the sound barrier was broken, in this case by Massive Attack's *Mezzanine* album. Far from receiving a royal ticking off, the workmen were told by an aide not to worry as the Prince "thinks Massive Attack are very good".

THE BATTLE of the Brits after-party has become like the post-Oscar parties. Pandora had so many invitations last Tuesday night that she didn't know where to start. The official party at London Docklands Arena never really got off to a swing. As soon as the awards ended, the party people were already heading off. Triple award-winner Robbie Williams held a party at China White, the Balinese-style night-club in Piccadilly, but the host never showed up. Apparently he was too upset after seeing his ex-fiancee, the All Saints singer Nicole Appleton, with her new amour.

CONTINUING THE search for the ultimate after-party party, Pandora headed over to Browns night-club in Covent Garden. Bono and the double award-winner Natalie Imbruglia popped by and Steve Wonder arrived with a huge entourage, but the stars of the night had nothing to do with the music industry. David Ghola, Ian Walker and Les Ferdinand were celebrating Tottenham Hotspur's semi-final win in the Worthington Cup.

PANDORA THEN hotfooted it to the Met Bar in Park Lane, where Sony was hosting a party for the Manic Street Preachers. Also there were Des'ree, Ian Brown of the Stone Roses, Boy George, Catatonia and Boh Geldof, all enjoying chocolate-mint and watermelon martinis. After spotting Julia Carling and Ross Kemp, Pandora decided enough was enough. On her way home she nipped into Home House, a private members' club in Portman Square, built in the 1770s for the Home family. This was the venue for the ultimate post-Brits bash. Bono and Imbruglia chose to finish their evening

swapping stories and song ideas alongside The Corrs, Dave Stewart, Richard Branson, Mark Owen and Caprice at the elegant Georgian venue.

WELSH OFFICE Minister Peter Hain did a useful bit of networking at the Brit Awards. The Welsh bands the Manic Street Preachers, Catatonia and Stereophonics have promised Hain they will give a special concert at the new Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Let's hope that, despite all the rumours, the stadium really will be completed in time. If not they may have to go down to Cardiff Bay and make some noise at the new Assembly building, or which has also yet to be built.

MPS WERE in a soulful mood this week as they joined forces to sing for the BBC's *Songs of Praise*, which was being filmed in the crypt beneath the House of Commons. No doubt the Conservatives in the congregation were praying for a miracle.

A DIFFERENT kind of party was hosted in London by Rupert Murdoch for his son and heir apparent, Lachlan, and bride-to-be, the model Sarah O'Hare (pictured). At the dinner party, the Wonderbra model was seated next to Paul Keating, twice premier of Australia. Half-way through the dinner she turned to him and asked: "Do I detect a bit of an Aussie twang in your accent? Where are you from?" Keating admitted that he once lived in Canberra, the home of government in Australia. "Oh really, whereabouts?" she asked. "I've got some friends who live there." The kind of conversation you expect from the Brits, perhaps, but not at Mr Murdoch's table.

Pandora can be contacted at: pandora@independent.co.uk



PETER WALLIS is, by all accounts, an ordinary chap who had been going about his life in a hameless sort of way until this woman Kellie Smith ruined it all. Or so he claims. There they were, two grown-ups having sex with no worries because she was on the pill. How was he to know that during one rapturous climax his innocent, happy sperm was being deliberately tempted to reproduce through an act of gross deceit and theft?

Kellie, you see, unilaterally decided to stop taking the pill because she wanted a baby. Wallis has accused her in a court in New Mexico of denying him the right to consent to fatherhood and of "intentionally acquiring and misusing" his precious sperm. The defence argues that at the moment of ejaculation Wallis "surrendered his right of possession". I have heard of a woman's right to own all that is in her body, including her baby (a dangerous idea at times); this is a new and dodgy one. Smith's lawyers also argue, disingenuously, that if he wanted to hang on to his seed he



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

If we want men to be better fathers, the decision to have a child cannot rest solely with women

should have used a condom or "other measures to stop the spill". Stop laughing. This is not a Bridget Joneses-style desperate story. It is a serious moral dilemma of our times and a predicament that could have surfaced only in the late 20th century. In some ways, of course, it is not. The anguish of men

caught up in anxieties of biological fatherhood has long been the stuff of drama at its most intense. Think of Strindberg's unbearable *The Father*, about the torment of never knowing truly whether a child is yours. The playwright was consumed by this in his real life, too. Today all his nightmares would be sorted out within a fortnight of providing the right body fluids. But progress often raises even more complicated questions.

This case, for example, shows the clashes between science, morality, feminism, new man-ism, individual freedom, sexual liberation and the politics of family - and the role of the state in all this. Some British feminists have seen this case as yet further evidence of how men are running scared of controlling women (and a good thing too, is the implication) who took their jobs and their domestic power and are now helping themselves to their seed. I find this demeaning to men and to feminism.

Wallis has a serious case here. If we are asking fathers to take greater responsibility so that they

not only provide for children financially but also learn to be equal parents in all those big and small ways that mothers take for granted, then we must accept, too, that men must have a choice in the matter. Biology makes arguments of equality difficult in this area of life.

If mistakes are made on a wild night that ends in a pregnancy, it is of course the woman who has to face the more difficult traumas and the entire physical cost. But this does not give us the right to grab and determine all the decisions that follow. Not in this day and age. Wallis may want to be an involved father when he does decide to have a child, and perhaps he feels that the spirit of this earlier, unwanted child will for ever blight that moment in the future.

The fact that Smith wants a child should not be reason enough for her to go out and simply get one, as she would a made-to-order birthday cake. She is thoughtlessly making lifelong decisions for three people here. Even if she demands no financial support today, what if something happened to her, or her

finances became so tight that she had to turn to the state, which would then demand money from the reluctant father?

This is a major complaint faced by the troubled Child Support Agency. Many fathers (a lot of them selfish brutes who are lying to get off paying anything) claim that they are victims of the system and women who got themselves pregnant. There is no way you can prove or disprove this, but we can say loudly and clearly that for women to choose to have a child without consent from the father is, in most cases, wrong.

If you want to have a child without a partner, why not go for artificial insemination from a donor? If it is about making a man commit because he won't, is it really wise to blackmail a person into parenthood when it is so very hard even when freely chosen? What Smith has also not calculated for is the possibility that her child will resent her actions to go it alone as much as her sexual partner does. Then will it all seem worth it?

The emergence of Turkey as a major world player



RUPERT CORNWELL

It is no longer a country which others may cross with impunity: today, Turkey matters

neighbours, the state that Mustafa Kemal founded in 1923 looks quite strong and influential enough. Just ask Cyprus, Greece or Syria.

In December, unyielding Turkish hostility forced the Cypriots to cancel the planned deployment of Russian missiles, after Ankara had warned it would attack the island to destroy them. A couple of months earlier, Turkey massed troops on its border with Syria and quietly brandished its unofficial strategic partnership with Israel to force Damascus to expel Abdullah Ocalan.

And now the sensational capture of the Kurdish guerrilla leader in Kenya, where he had been sheltered by the Greeks. Not for years has Athens been so humiliated by its ancestral foe. The triumph may in the longer run be counterproductive, but for Turkey today it must be sweet indeed.

But, as one seasoned Turkey-watcher put it to me: "It's not so much that Turkey is suddenly starting to throw its weight around, because it always has. It's just that we notice it now."

And not surprisingly, given that Turkey, geographically straddling Europe and Asia and one of the most

populous countries bordering the Mediterranean, seems to be involved, one way or another, in about every diplomatic development of note, from Brussels to Tashkent.

It is, first of all, a key member of Nato - once as the front line against the Soviet Union, today as the alliance's easternmost member, and destined surely for even greater importance if Nato this spring adopts a new doctrine enabling it to operate beyond its original European theatre. Indeed, the use of the Incirlik base by Britain and America to patrol the northern no-fly zone in Iraq is probably but a foretaste of things to come.

But Turkey, thanks to its ever closer co-operation with Israel, is now a factor in the other Middle East crisis. Both countries insist that there is nothing sinister about their military co-operation. The fact is that Turkey is now one side of a "triangle" protecting the Jewish state, alongside the US and Jordan (admittedly rather wobbly at the moment).

Now switch to Europe. Turkey forms the largest immigrant community in Europe, and especially in Germany, the EU's largest economy. Peer behind the dispute over Germany's new citizenship law, and you find the problem of the Turkish *Gastarbeiter*, officially foreigners but German in all but blood. The EU is wrestling with enlargement. But all could come to grief over Cyprus if Greece carries out its threat to veto any new members in Eastern Europe, should a divided Cyprus be refused admission. And who is most adamantly opposed to a unified Cyprus? The Turkish-sponsored statelet in the north of the island.

Which brings us to the Cyprus issue, unsolved for a quarter of a century, and still a flashpoint of potential war between two Nato countries. And, picking our way through a similar minefield of religious and ethnic conflict in the Balkans, we arrive at a real war in Kosovo. This



Mustafa Kemal - Atatürk - the founder of modern Turkey Rez

time the Russians, not the Greeks, are the patron power of the Christian party to the conflict. Among the most natural champions of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian Muslims are - you will have guessed by now - the Turks.

And the patron's role stretches back across the Dardanelles to the Turkic peoples of former Soviet Transcaucasia and Central Asia.

Today the role is more imagined than real, though note where Azerbaijan's President Geydar Aliyev went for medical treatment recently: not to London or Paris, but to Istanbul. But tomorrow, as the energy resources of the Caspian and Turkmenistan come on stream, transported to Europe almost certainly across Turkey, it will be a different story.

And finally the Kurds. Ocalan's capture may not have ended Ankara's Kurdish problem. Even though military victory in the long civil war in Turkey's south east may now be assured, this week's rash of embassy occupations has done

more to make people aware of the Kurdish problem than a decade of protests of human rights groups at the brutal, repressive tactics of Turkey's security forces.

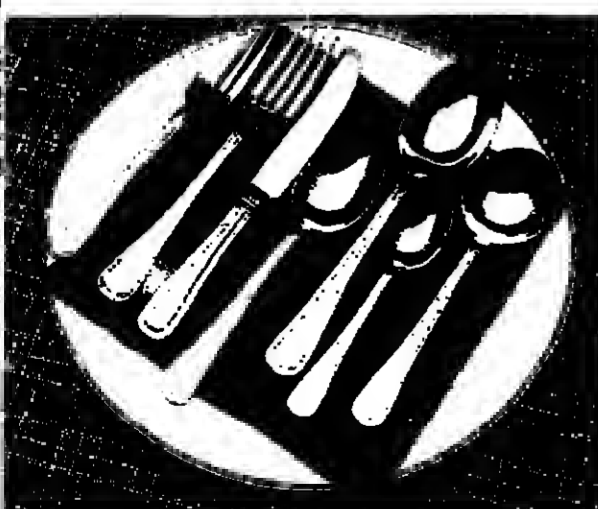
The miserable odyssey of the "world's most unwanted man" tells its own story. Yes, his final seizing doubtless owes something to the assistance of the Americans and Israelis (both, we have seen, most anxious to stay in Ankara's good books). But it was Turkey's odour, and the bolted asylum doors across Europe, which drove him to the undignified refuge of a Greek embassy outbuilding in sub-Saharan Africa. Turkey is no longer a country that others may cross with impunity. Turkey matters, a great deal.

So if I were a young Foreign Office entrant today, not worried about getting my feet dirty, I wouldn't want to go to Washington or Paris. I'd be boning up on the various crises of the Middle East, EU foreign policy, the Balkans, Islamic radicalism and the politics of big oil, and I'd be angling for Ankara.

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The iconography of war memorials

GEORGE MOSSE's book *Fallen Soldiers* deals with the way the memory of the Great War was reshaped by a mixture of commercialisation and commemoration. He argues that the memory of the Great War was reshaped by a combination of trivialisation through commercialism and entertainment, and sanctification through commemoration, which, together, "masked" war's true nature.

The killing, destruction, maiming and bereavement was evacuated from the public awareness of the war, and a space left which was then filled with positive, consolatory ideas. These ideas represent the war experience as the pursuit of ethical goals, as if it had been a sacred task set for the community which engaged in it. This community was predominantly defined by its nationality, as the war had been organised nationally. Death in this sacred task became a virtuous and valued act of sacrifice.

Memorials were sites where this understanding of the slaughter of war as transcendent sacrifice for the nation

was given a lasting expression, and so became the shrines of what Mosse calls the "civic religion of nationalism".

Mosse sees the reshaped memory of the war as a myth. It is a myth of the sacred pursuit, through trials and suffering, of the people's - that is, the nation's - self-fulfilment. By contrast, Samuel Hynes has identified a quite different reshaping process, ending in a different myth, in his *A War Imagined*, which is a study of the impact of the First World War on British culture. This was a reshaping in which the belligerent and nationalist attitudes of wartime propaganda became the revision against war that was so widespread in Britain in the late Twenties and Thirties.

The iconography of war memorials is generally limited. Either it relies on conventional treatment of conventional themes, or it makes a virtue of an almost mute simplicity of form. It is this reticence in the imagery that has led to the accusation that memorials misrepresent the "reality" of war.

The memorial cross at Brancepeth, County Durham is a very conventional piece of



PODIUM

ALEX KING
From a paper read by the Victoria and Albert Museum historian at the London School of Economics

church Gothic by WH Wood of Newcastle upon Tyne, a local architect whose practice was very much involved with the Church. At its unveiling in 1921, the officiating clergyman said this: "a cross reminding them of the horrors and the wickedness of war, and helped them to the declaration 'never again will the earth be blasted by this terrible curse'".

At the unveiling ceremony for Leeds city war memorial, in

1921, the Dean of the Roman Catholic cathedral prayed that it may "...serve to fill us with a horror of war".

For many people - though certainly not all - acknowledgement of what war really had been like was a principal factor in their understanding and interpretation of memorials to the dead.

Usually, the sentiments expressed in these circumstances were fairly uncontroversial. But sometimes they could be a good deal more partisan. The London Brighton and South Coast Railway memorial at Victoria station, unveiled in 1921, is simply a large bronze panel bearing a list of names. Apart from that, it has no imagery to speak of. The company chairman, who was unveiling it, used the occasion to pronounce judgement on the meaning of all memorials:

"These memorials are, in a higher sense, not for them but for us, to bid us be conscious of our trust and mindful of our duty. What are this trust and duty? Are they not the trust and duty we owe to our country?" That sounds like nationalist talk.

As far as Germany is concerned, building memorials to

the dead of the Great War seems to have got off to a slow start. There is some evidence that deep divisions in local politics frequently prevented memorials being built until the end of the Twenties, and it has been suggested that many local memorials were completed only after the Nazis put an end to democratic local politics after 1933.

Richard Bessel says, in his book on Germany in the immediate aftermath of the Great War, that there was no lack of anti-war feeling in Germany at that time. It is interesting that this feeling seems never to have informed the commemoration of the war dead as it did in Britain and, according to Antoine Prost, also in France.

If, as Mosse says, a masking of the true nature of war did take place, and a thoroughly nationalist cult of the dead developed as a result, it is in the institutional context of war commemoration that we should seek the reason. We should look at how the memorials were built and by whom, how interpretations circulated and how the world of local political activism was organised.

The Pope's last crusade



PAUL VALLEY
John Paul II has denounced the West for being in the grip of a 'culture of death'

THERE WAS irony in the impertinence. A former film idol was quoting a 13th-century theologian back at the Pope. And not just any old theologian but St Thomas Aquinas, the Catholic church's most eminent systematic thinker, and the authority whom John Paul II is fond of summoning to support his own stances.

The papal interlocutor was Joseph Estrada, best known for his roles as an avenging hero on behalf of the poor. He is now President of the Philippines, in which capacity he recently authorised the death by lethal injection of a house painter convicted of repeatedly raping his 10-year-old stepdaughter. Leo Echegaray this month became the first man to be executed in the country for 23 years.

The President, who came to office last year after a popular campaign to get tough on criminals, rejected a papal appeal for clemency. In response he quoted Aquinas: "Although it be evil to kill a man so long as he preserves his dignity, yet it may be good to kill a man who has sinned, even as it is to kill a beast." To underscore his resolve, Estrada announced that he "felt good" about his decision, adding, "future rapists need to know we mean business".

In a display of disapproval at the decision, the Church ordered that every bell in the land should toll at the hour of execution. The death of Echegaray would not sound a knell over the Vatican's new crusade against the death penalty.

At the end of the longest pontificate this century Pope John Paul II may be failing in health, but he has been moving with renewed energy against capital punishment (which has been making a bit of a comeback after half a century of decline in both the developed and developing worlds). It is a campaign which we can expect to see stepped up, for John Paul II has set himself the target of a worldwide moratorium on state executions by the end of the millennium.

With some success. It was top of his list of concerns on his recent visit to the United States - the only Western democracy that still endorses judicial killing. He raised it in private with Bill Clinton, knowing that publicly the President is a lost cause. Clinton is the man who, in the



The Pope's target: Death Rows such as the Ellis Unit in Huntsville, Texas, which houses many of the 3,517 Americans awaiting execution

Mike Moore/Daily Mirror

midst of the 1992 election, rushed back to Arkansas to sign the death warrant of a mentally retarded felon.

But John Paul II has had more influence on others. Since the papal visit, three state governors - in Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas - have commuted death sentences after, as one of them put it, "careful consideration of his direct and personal appeal and because of a deep and abiding respect for the Pontiff and all he represents".

The Church has not always been so robust on the subject. The Old Testament sanctions the death penalty for murder, striking or cursing one's parents, kidnapping, bestiality, sorcery and sacrificing to alien gods. And leading theologians, from St Augustine through Aquinas and the reformers Luther and Calvin, up until the popes of the 20th century, have regarded it as an unpleasant necessity.

As with so many modern advances - such as democracy and the emancipation of women - secular impulses led the way. Liberal philosophers and sociologists raised doubts about whether the death penalty really deterred murderers or preserved public order, and exposed the inevitability of sometimes executing innocent prisoners.

The movement to abolish capital punishment is historically a recent phenomenon. Venezuela was, in 1863, the first country permanently to abolish the death penalty for all crimes. Today more than half of all the countries in the world have followed suit, while another 25 states have not executed anyone in the past 10 years.

If anything, the Church has dragged its feet on the process. As recently as 1994 Rome issued a new Catechism which endorsed its centuries-old view of execution as morally legitimate "in cases of extreme gravity".

But something significant occurred in the drafting of the Church's new moral. Though a majority of the commission which drew it up voted not to outlaw the death penalty, an additional caveat was added - at the personal insistence, according to one Vatican insider, of Pope John Paul himself. It condemned "the unnecessary recourse to the death penalty, when other bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor and to protect public order and the safety of the person".

Two years later, in his 1996 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, the Pope pronounced that "today, as a

result of steady improvement in the organisation of the penal system" the number of cases in which the death penalty was permissible were "very rare, if not practically nonexistent". By July last year, when the United Nations convened a conference on how to establish a permanent International Criminal Court, the Pope was instructing the Vatican delegation to call for the death penalty to be excluded from its statutes.

Then in November he gave backing to an Amnesty International proposal for a worldwide moratorium on the use of the death penalty after the year 2000. In the same month, using diplomatic channels, he sent his private appeal to President Estrada in the Philippines. Finally, in his *Ubi et Orbi* message at Christmas, he made an explicit call for the global abolition of the capital penalty.

What lay behind his creeping conversion? Some commentators spoke of his experience living in Communist eastern Europe where state-sanctioned death was a chilling commonplace. But more significant was his uncompromising opposition to abortion which, he became steadily convinced, could not be divided from a comprehensive

sense of the inviolability of life. His logic led him to agree with the analysis of the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardini. The Chicago cardinal - faced with a US church split between Catholics who were viscerally opposed to abortion but in favour of the death penalty, and vice versa - insisted that the Church's moral stance in defence of human life must be like "a seamless robe".

The black-and-white Augustinian logic of the Polish Pope, much criticised by liberal intellectuals, came into play here. This is the theological temperament which has led him to denounce the Western world as in the grip of a "culture of death" - a culture that is not a chance occurrence, but is "actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic and political currents which encourage an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency".

But here it led him, to the delight of those same liberals, increasingly to see a contradiction between defending human life "from conception to natural death" and supporting death by execution.

It is not surprising therefore that all this came to a head with the papal visit to the United States last month. There are four countries which, between them, were in 1997

responsible for 84 per cent of executions: China (which killed 1,876 people), Iran (143), Saudi Arabia (122) and the US (74). The United States has executed 500 people since it reintroduced the death penalty in 1976; today it has 3,517 prisoners on Death Row.

In such places, he said in Mexico, on the eve of his arrival in Missouri, "a model of society appears to be emerging in which the powerful predominate, setting aside and even eliminating the powerless" through abortion, euthanasia and a death penalty that is applied disproportionately to those who are poor and black.

The United States, he said fiercely, "bears the stamp of the culture of death, and is therefore in opposition to the Gospel message". The dignity of human life "must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil". The death penalty, he said on landing in St Louis was "both cruel and unnecessary" and must be ended.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DAVID EDMONDS



The director general of Ofcom responds to criticisms about its reform of telephone numbers

NOBODY LIKES changing telephone numbers. That's a fact. Number capacity is running out. That's a fact, too. Another fact is that the telephone is no longer just a way for us to chat to loved ones or make business calls. It is the physical infrastructure for the information superhighway - the route to the Internet, the lines used by companies to send data ranging from sales figures to financial transactions.

In a few years we have seen an explosion of services offered via our telephones, and another certainly to add to death and taxes is that more services will be dreamed up in the years ahead.

Already there are homes with a line for the Internet, one for the fax and another for the phone. You can have different ringing tones for each member of the family. It all eats up numbers.

Even before Ofcom took over numbering in 1994, work was going on to ensure that there was enough number capacity to meet demand. The National Numbering Scheme was drawn up after independent research in 1996. There were four public consultations.

In 1996, Phoebe added a 1 to every geographic number. This increased available capacity from 900 million numbers to 9 billion.

We are taking advantage of this and between now and April 2000, Northern Ireland, Coventry, Portsmouth and Southampton, Cardiff and London will get new 02 codes. Failure to act would see these areas running out of numbers by the summer of 2000.

Ofcom will work to ensure that those affected have enough warning to plan ahead and avoid unnecessary costs. But failure to implement these plans and bring in new codes where needed could leave the UK floundering in the new digital age that lies ahead. That cost is too high.

The Arthur Daleys of diplomacy

HOW DARE they! I have scarcely recovered from the misery of reading *This Blessed Plot*, Hugo Young's account of Britain's calamitous international relations since the Second World War, when Paul Lashmar and James Oliver present an equally absorbing, depressing and well-written work.

Young's book sets out in mastery detail the monstrous incompetence of recent British politicians and civil servants. He tells how these people guided the country down wrong roads and up blind alleys, seeking to superannate the Empire at one moment, depending on the Commonwealth the next, trucking to Washington thereafter, but always turning up their fastidious Kiplingese noses at our Continental neighbours.

How was it that a British establishment - so well paid and so splendidly honoured - played out such a ridiculous pantomime? How could it have continued superciliously spurn-



THURSDAY BOOK

BRITAIN'S SECRET PROPAGANDA WAR: 1948-1977
BY PAUL LASHMAR AND JAMES OLIVER
SUTTON PUBLISHING, £25

ing the European future, leaving our country isolated on the margins of the European Union, potentially the greatest economic power the world has yet seen?

Paul Lashmar, one of Britain's foremost investigative journalists, and the historian James Oliver have produced a fascinating and authoritative study of one agency of state - the Information Research Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office - which was responsible for more than its fair share of such strategic blunders. This is a sad tale, splendidly told. Created in 1948 and funded from the clandestine budget of the Secret In-

telligence Service, MI6, the IRD had as its not ignoble task the campaign against Communist influence outside this kingdom, and the battle for worldwide public acceptance of British strategic aims.

One of its most important operations, which proved to be one of the last independent actions of global significance by British intelligence, was its assistance in the overthrow in 1965 of President Sukarno of Indonesia, whose troops had been seeking to destabilise Malaysia. The operation, one could argue, had its justification.

But did the IRD know that his successor, General Suharto, was to preside over the immediate massacre of hundreds of thousands of Indonesians? It probably did. After all, the US, our Nato ally and junior partner in the campaign against Sukarno, passed on to Suharto's army the names of thousands of left-wingers.

As these people were killed by the army, their names were crossed off a list at the US embassy in Jakarta. In that city running with human blood, the diplomat Robert J Mertens said "They probably killed a lot of people, and I probably have a lot of blood on my hands, but that's not all bad. There's a time when you have to strike hard at a decisive moment."

Did the IRD know that Suharto would go on to slaughter a third of the population of occupied East Timor, plunder Timor's oil and, in our day, cause the almost fatal weakening of the economy of South-East Asia? Probably not. But members of the department can never evade responsi-



The Information Research Department lent vital support to General Suharto's regime in Indonesia

Charles Dharapak/AP

bility for helping to put him there in the first place.

The department was, however, always the Arthur Daley of the British diplomatic world, staffed with people disdained by their colleagues as less than high-fliers. The IRD ended up deserting its official brief and peddling smears against a British prime minister and half-truths to its allies in the British press about what was going on in Northern Ireland.

Just before Dr David Owen closed it down in 1976, the department was asked to prepare a broad philosophical briefing for the Labour government. As the white terrorist government in Pretoria was beating up or murdering those black activists it was not locking up on Robben Island, the hapless IRD produced a document entitled "South Africa: the Communist Peril".

In Latin America, IRD tried to seek intellectual acceptance for its right-wing views but was hampered by the quality of the staff it employed (or shared with the CIA).

One thinks of the troubled Australian, Robert Moss, author of *Chile's Marxist Experiment* - a book rushed out to support Augusto Pinochet within 10 weeks of his 1973 putsch and which formed part of a series portentously entitled "World Realities". Moss, say the authors, had visited Chile, then under the disorderly but democratically elected government of Dr Salvador Allende, at the expense of Forum World Features, a CIA operation based in London.

The department used to send me its briefings on Latin America - unattributably and, like direct-mail condoms, always under plain cover, never franked and always bearing an adhesive stamp. I was constantly struck by the oddity of their arguments and the paucity of their supposedly "privileged" information. The briefings never contained anything that could not be gleaned from a reading of the daily newspapers in any Latin American capital.

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

COMMONS CANTEN BANS GENETIC FOODS

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Herbert Kline

AN ACCOMPLISHED and committed maker of documentary films, the left-wing activist Herbert Kline was one of the first Americans to go to Spain during the civil war and capture on film the strife and suffering there. He later obtained graphic footage of Hitler's occupation of Czechoslovakia (with the unwitting help of the Nazis themselves) in *Crisis*, described by *The New York Times* as "one of the finest political documentaries ever made".

He documented Hitler's conquest of Poland in *Lights Out in Europe*, and worked with the writer John Steinbeck on a film about peasant life in Mexico, *The Forgotten Village*. Later he made a moving film about the Holocaust and other documentaries distinguished by their fresh approach, fine photography and personal commitment.

Born in Chicago in 1909, and brought up in Davenport, Iowa, Kline was interested in radical politics from an early age. In his twenties he became one of several editors for *Left Front* magazine in Chicago, and from there he moved to New York, becoming the editor of *New Theater* magazine, whose coverage soon expanded to include films and dance. He was among the first to publish the plays of Clifford Odets. He also became part of the New York Film and Photo League, a socio-political documentary movement, in the early 1930s.

In December 1936 he resigned from *New Theater* and went to Spain to cover the civil war for several publications. By March 1937 he had teamed up with the Hungarian photographer Gera Karpachi to make *Heart of Spain*, about a Madrid mother who meets the young soldier whose life she had saved with a blood transfusion. Kline and Karpachi later admitted that neither could load a film camera when they started on the project.

In order to make *Crisis*, the Jewish film-maker bluffed his way into Czechoslovakia by pretending to be pro-Nazi. While he filmed rallies and parades, storm troops carried his equipment and followed his directions before the camera. He wrote later, "It seemed strange for one of my verboten racial origin to have a troop of SA men to do my bidding and march and heil and shout as they were told." Frank S. Nugent wrote in *The New York Times* when the film opened in 1938:

It is the study of a beleaguered democracy in the dark days after the Nazi Austrian putsch, in the still darker days after Munich. It ends with the betrayal of the republic, with the streets groaning under the dirgeful tread of bewildered men and women marching, singing, sobbing, protesting, looking forlornly for a leader... a concise, complete, obviously authentic and extraordinarily graphic record of a significant and tragic historical event.

Crisis had been Kline's first collaboration with the great Czech cameraman and editor Alexander

Hackenschmidt (later Hammid) and the pair teamed again, with additional photography by Douglas Slocombe, for *Lights Out in Europe* (1939), described by B.R. Crisler in *The New York Times* as

not just another well-intentioned "documentary" but the most beautifully comprehensive report on the recent neurological prelude to war in existence... *Lights Out in Europe* gives the first panoramic picture of the world crisis in all its infinite political, economic, racial, propagandistic and brutally military ramifications which has yet reached our screen.

Kline said later, "*Crisis* and *Lights Out* were conceived as a dramatic statement of an anti-Fascist point of view. They were definitely on the side of the democracies, but they were not blatant 'propaganda'. They were movies of the real-life drama of various aspects of anti-Nazi resistance."

Recently reshown by Anthology Film Archives, the avant-garde group headed by the film-maker Jonas Mekas, *Lights Out in Europe*, for which James Hilton provided the commentary, spoken by Fredric March, still impressed: "It has a stimulating energy and freshness," stated the historian Howard Mandelbaum. "Many documentaries are basically compilations of archive footage, but this was obviously specially shot material, beautifully photographed and edited with a strong viewpoint."

Kline was always the first to credit the contribution made by his cameramen, writing some years later that Henri Cartier-Bresson (with whom he worked on a second film about the Spanish conflict, *Return to Life*, in 1938) and Alexander Hammid were two of the greatest talents he had ever worked with. "I've worked with James Wong Howe, Lee Garmes, Douglas Slocombe and other notable cameramen, and I would say they're all of the same level. Their eyes can do no wrong."

John Steinbeck provided the narrative (spoken by Burgess Meredith) for Kline's next production, *The*

'It seemed strange for one of my verboten racial origin to have a troop of SA men to do my bidding and march and heil and shout as they were told'

Forgotten Village (1940), shot in Santiago, Mexico, with Hackenschmidt co-directing, photographing and editing. When shown at the Brussels World Film Festival in 1947 it won first prize as Best Feature Documentary.

The film depicted the struggle between superstitious ignorance and new ways of science. A young peasant tries to help a medical unit save



Kline (right) with Jawaharlal Nehru in Delhi, 1963, discussing a film project

his village from colitis caused by a poisoned well, but they are constantly hampered by the villagers, who are under the influence of the local Wise Woman. Finally driven out by his father, the peasant goes with the unit to Mexico City to study medicine, stating, "I must be a doctor and help save the lives of my people."

"The working method was very

The film writer Roger Marvell described it as "a minor masterpiece". He wrote:

The photography is bright with the harsh sunlight and the contrasting shadows of black foregrounds of cacti and village walls... The film is full of beautiful and expressive close-ups: the mother who smiles with her shawled head tilted, the friendly simplicity of the father, joyful at the birth of more children, as he wipes the sweat and the flies from his face. When his son dies an unforgettable shot turns from the villagers dancing before the funeral to the still face of the mother, resigned in fatalistic sadness.

In 1947 he joined the novelist-screenwriter Meyer Levin to direct *My Father's House*, an acclaimed feature-length film dramatising the struggle of former Holocaust prisoners to establish a homeland in Israel, but his attempts to move into mainstream film-making were less successful. In 1944 he had co-scripted the Val Lewton production *Youth Runs Wild*, about teenagers left undisciplined by parents at war or working in defence plants, and in 1949 he directed a poorly received commercial feature, *The Kid From Cleveland*, in which a sports reporter befriends a delinquent who loves baseball.

After directing *The Fighter* (1952), a taut but minor thriller set in Mexico and based on a story by Jack London, Kline found himself, like most overt left-wingers in Hollywood at the time, blacklisted, and he did not make another film until *Walls of Fire* (1973), about the Mexican artists Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros, which won an Oscar nomination.

He followed this with further documentaries: *The Challenge: a tribute to modern art* (1974), narrated by Orson Welles and also nominated for an Oscar as Best Feature Documentary; *Acting: Lee Strasberg and the Actors Studio* (1981); and *Great Theatres of the World* (1987).

From 1980 to 1992 Herbert Kline lived and worked in London on a variety of projects, including a book, *New Theatre and Film 1934-1937*. He returned to Los Angeles in 1992.

TOM VALLANCE

Herbert Kline, documentary film-maker: born Chicago, Illinois 13 March 1909; married Josine Iancu-Starrs (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved); died Los Angeles 5 February 1999.

Petre Crowder

PETRE CROWDER was a distinguished barrister and junior political figure, but he is probably most remembered for his successful defence of the East End gangsters the Kray twins against a charge of demanding money with menaces, and of Ron Kray when he was charged with the murder of Frank Mitchell. He went on to become Recorder of Colchester between 1967 and 1981.

He was born in 1918, the son of Sir John Ellenborough Crowder. He had a privileged childhood and youth, and was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. He evinced an early interest in the law, but in 1939 volunteered to join the Coldstream Guards. He had an active war in North Africa, Italy and Burma; in this last theatre, serving under Field Marshal Sir William Slim, he attained the rank of Major. As with so many others who served in the conflict, his civilian peacetime career was cruelly interrupted and he was not called to the Bar until 1948. Thereafter his career progressed steadily rather than spectacularly: he became a QC only in 1964, and in 1971 was appointed Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

In January 1964 Reg and Ron Kray, along with another man, Edward Smith, were arrested and charged with demanding money with menaces. The magistrate hearing the case took the steps of refusing bail for the brothers and concealing the names of witnesses against them, for fear of retribution. Crowder appeared for the Kray twins; the defence argued strenuously that they should be allowed bail, on the grounds that

these two young men had been deprived of their liberty since January and it was unlikely that the case would be heard this side of March; they would have served, in effect, a sentence of two months' imprisonment for something of which they might well be acquitted.

The Krays were found not guilty in April that year.

At Bow Street Magistrates' Court in 1968, the Krays, with Frank Foreman, were accused of helping in the escape of Frank "Mad Axe-man" Mitchell from Dartmoor prison, and then of murdering him. Albert Donoghue, the Krays' former henchman, said: "Foreman described how Mitchell's heart was ripped and hurled and said it was surprising how small his brain was for a big man like that. He said Mitchell finally 'went into the pot', which I understood was an incinerator or something." Crowder appeared for Ron Kray; both Krays were acquitted.

Like many lawyers, Crowder was interested in politics, and his background gave him a Tory disposition. In the traditional manner, he was blooded at a by-election in North Tottenham just after the 1945 general election. This was a hopeless seat, but, also in the traditional way, he was rewarded by being selected to stand as a candidate in the safe constituency of Rushmore in the general election of 1950. Later, when changes made by the Boundary Commission altered the constituency to Hillingdon and Rushmore in 1974, he held the new seat even through the two Conservative general election defeats of that

year. He was not to retire from the House of Commons until 1979.

By that year Crowder's political career was over: any hopes he had ever entertained of ministerial office had long been dashed, despite the patronage of Reginald Manningham-Buller, who appointed him to serve as his Parliamentary Private Secretary from 1952 to 1964, during which time Manningham-Buller was first Solicitor-General and then Attorney-General.

Being a Parliamentary Private Secretary is both arduous and unpaid, but the job is usually undertaken by ambitious politicians in the hope that loyal service will be rewarded by ministerial preferment. However, as Manningham-Buller's star faded, so did that of Crowder. Until he left politics, therefore, his main preoccupation was with his legal career.

Crowder's life and work serves as a paradigm of the careers of many lawyer-politicians. He had every advantage of background, education, and wartime service to his country, and enjoyed at least some ministerial patronage, but he never managed to attract prime ministerial favour. It could perhaps be said that he was unfortunate in being taken under the wing of Manningham-



Representing Ron Kray in 1963

Buller: a man who, whatever his skills as a barrister, his colleagues found difficult, if not impossible, to like.

Although, at 79, Crowder could look back on a long and successful career in his main profession, here again he never quite reached the front rank. But a parliamentary system as sophisticated and demanding as that of the United Kingdom depends to a very large extent on the long and unstinting service of men (and women) such as Petre Crowder.

PATRICK COSGRAVE

Frederick Petre Crowder, politician and barrister: born 18 July 1918; called to the Bar, Inner Temple 1948. Master of the Bench 1971. Reader 1990. Treasurer 1991. MP (Conservative) for Rushmore-Northwood 1950-74, for Hillingdon, Rushmore-Northwood 1974-79; PPS to the Solicitor-General 1952-54, to the Attorney-General 1954-62. Deputy Chairman, Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions 1959-63, Chairman 1963-71; Recorder of Gravesend 1960-67; of Colchester 1967-91; QC 1964; married 1948 The Hon Patricia Stourton (two sons); died 16 February 1999.

Nina Stanger

NINA STANGER was an unusual woman to find practising at the English Bar in the late Sixties and early Seventies. Beautiful, Bohemian and fiercely clever, she brought glamour to the group of left-wing lawyers who championed civil liberties and defended in the political cases of the time.

She was born in Bromley, in Kent, in 1943; her father was an accountant, her mother a schoolteacher. After studying at the London School of Economics, she was called to the Bar in 1965. She was soon involved in some widely publicised cases. She defended the Holborn squatters and the squatters in 144 Piccadilly, who were arrested after they occupied empty buildings to draw attention to homelessness.

When the Old Bailey was bombed in 1972 she was one of the lawyers who defended the Price sisters. She also acted in many of the cases arising from student unrest in the universities and indeed met her future husband, the Oxford politician and writer Steven Lukes, when she acted for the students involved in the occupation of the Indian Institute in 1974.

The Seventies also saw the resurgence of the Haldane Society as a meeting place for progressive lawyers. As an organisation it had gone through a moribund period but was revitalised by a new generation who wanted a serious discourse about the role of lawyers of the Left in making the law accessible to those who were disadvantaged. Stanger was an active member, and her contributions to debate were delivered with great precision and dry wit, informed by her passion for civil liberties rather than rigid ideologies, which she deplored. She had an



exquisite voice which she used to great effect, especially with judges, and abundant blonde hair which looked glorious even under the barrister's wig.

Although Stanger continued to practice throughout the Seventies, her marriage in 1977 to Lukes transformed her life, as it did his. Their partnership led them to diversify many of their interests. They travelled extensively to the United States and Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, China.

I first met Nina Stanger in 1971 when she had just represented the protesters against the Miss World contest and was part of the legal team defending in the Angry Brigade trial (a group of anarchists who in the late Sixties and early Seventies attempted to bomb establishment targets). Women at the criminal bar were still few in number and here was one with the sort of practice which interested me. I sought her out, eager to

Her exquisite voice she used to effect, especially with judges; while her abundant blonde hair looked glorious even under the barrister's wig

he reassured that survival was possible in that chilly, male-dominated environment; she not only provided warmth and wisdom, which I came to recognise as her hallmark, but was also a constant source of encouragement in the years which followed.

Whenever we met she was full of news, political and cultural, as well as stories about the legal systems she had witnessed. She also co-founded the British Kurdish Friendship Society in 1975 and with a handful of others put the issue of Kurdish oppression on the agenda.

The birth of her three children followed and then in 1987 her husband was offered a post as Professor of Political and Social Theory at the European Institute in Florence and she could think of no more idyllic place to live. She embraced the move to Italy as a great adventure, even though she had herself just that year been admitted to the New York bar - she and

Steven had previously planned to go and live in America.

Although she continued over the years to take cases on an intermittent basis, her main focus became her children, her husband and Italian life, which enthralled her. She became immensely knowledgeable about Renaissance art and history, which seemed so appropriate as she had always looked like a Fra Angelico painting herself. She also made a comparative study of English and Italian law and not only organised conferences on the subject in Florence but acted as a consultant to Italian lawyers about British practice.

When I last saw her two years ago at a political seminar in Siena she was as vibrant and beautiful as ever. Amidst proud and tantalising descriptions of her children, she made me promise that I would resist all attempts by government to interfere with jury trials in Britain. Having seen the inquisitorial system at close quarters, she was highly critical of it.

Her descriptions of her life were wildly funny but delivered as always with careful pacing and a wonderful turn of phrase. She was well abreast of the political scene in the UK and incisive in her commentary about the key players. As we parted she told me of her plans to return to practice but only after she completed a novel which had been taking form in the months before.

HELENA KENNEDY

Nina Vera Mary Stanger, barrister: born Bromley, Kent 6 August 1943; called to the Bar 1965; married 1977 Steven Lukes (two sons, one daughter); died Galliano, Italy 30 January 1999.

Mary Edwardes

MARY EDWARDES made herself the queen scourge of unethical professionals. Whether they were priests, psychotherapists or doctors and whether caught with zips undone or ethics in a twist, Edwardes was remorselessly effective both in supporting their victims and in demanding justice.

Her life closely paralleled the times in which she lived. Having filled the role of full-time executive wife during her marriage to the industrialist Sir Michael Edwardes and having raised three daughters, like so many women of her generation she returned to higher education, was divorced and began a career of her own.

Infuriated by social injustice and prepared to go to any length to right it (she was chucked out of her undergraduate degree course at the University of Cape Town for campaigning against discrimination against black students), after graduating as a psychodynamic psychotherapist at the Lincoln Institute in London, in 1991 she rapidly built up the first major

support organisation for sexually and otherwise abused clients; the Prevention of Professional Abuse Network, with Jenny Fasal.

There followed a steady flow of newspaper articles and a BBC documentary publicising the problem. Eventually, the Department of Health was forced to confront it and last year Edwardes established a new charity, Survivors of Professional Abuse National Association (Spana), with a strong emphasis on obtaining legal redress against miscreants.

Edwardes was constantly amazed and outraged at the lengths to which priests, therapists, doctors and their training institutions (especially the Roman Catholic Church) would go in order to silence clients whom they had abused. In the process of proving that they were neither mad nor liars Edwardes employed the skills of a natural advocate, with a keen appreciation of the law, but she would also act as therapist, friend and even mental nurse. Her self-sacrifices would have been beyond the call of duty in a healthy person, which she was not for the last 16 years she suffered from the exhaustion and depletion of multiple sclerosis.

She was born Mary Finlay in 1938, into a well-to-do family in Johannesburg. After a conventional education (she attended the South African Roedean School) she married young. For the next 20 years she followed her husband Michael from Zimbabwe to Worcester to London as he progressed to the job of running the British car industry which made him famous in the 1980s.

Intensely loyal, discreet and witty, she was a splendid hostess and had no difficulty in holding her own in the exalted company she was now required to keep. Whether it was a

weekend at Windsor with the Queen, small talk with Margaret Thatcher or entertaining Jeffrey Archer (about whom she was extremely funny) for supper, she was more than equal to the task.

Had this been the only role she played in her life, it would have been a terrible waste of her quick mind and cunning, pragmatic capacity to make things happen, and in the mid-1980s she suffered two significant reverses: she developed multiple sclerosis and her marriage ended. In recovering from these adversities she carved out her role as a champion of the exploited.

As a person she was always looking for the comical or absurd in any circumstance, be it ever so grand or tragic. She was non-judgemental, so that you could say anything at all to her without shocking, yet she was conscientious and fiercely moral. She hated "bullshit" and prized the truth.

Above all, she was someone who enabled others. Two clients whom she treated as a therapist have told me that their lives were transformed by her; but her helpfulness extended to all her relationships. Few of her friends and family have not been profoundly aided by her in both the most practical and the most psychologically telling ways. Uncomplaining, unselfish but twinkly-eyed, full of fun and never the martyr: it is the small minority of people like her who keep the rest of us on the right track, morally and emotionally.

OLIVER JAMES

Mary Margaret Finlay, psychotherapist and campaigner: born Johannesburg 9 March 1938; married 1958 Michael Edwardes (KI 1979; three daughters; marriage dissolved 1984); died London 13 February 1999.



Champion of the exploited

Indrani Rehman

AS ONE of India's most vibrant and best known classical dancers, Indrani Rehman performed before heads of state in the Sixties and popularised ancient dance forms for Western audiences. After years of international performances before leaders such as Mao Tse-tung, Nikita Khrushchev, John Kennedy, the Queen and Fidel Castro, she settled in New York in the 1970s and became a faculty member of the Juilliard Dance School at the Lincoln Center. She also taught various Indian classical dance forms at Harvard and other leading American universities.

Unlike most classical Indian dancers, Rehman did not specialise in one dance form, but performed several, Kathakali and Odissi. She was instrumental at home and abroad in popularising Odissi, the dance form that evolved in the eastern Orissa state. She had spent three gruelling years learning it, and she presented the highly evolved Kuchipudi style (which, like most classical dance forms, comes from the south of India) to overseas audiences for the first time.

Rehman's captivating beauty (she was one of the first Miss Indias, in the early 1950s), her grace and breathtaking costumes, fired the imagination of post-independence India and won her state patronage. Among numerous trips abroad in the 1950s and 1960s, she led two cultural troupes to China where she performed before Chairman Mao and the prime minister Chou En-lai.

She also greatly impressed the Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru who ensured that she was a member of his official delegation on important visits abroad. On one such trip to the United States in 1961 her dancing in New York enthralled President Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline. Eighteen years later she gave another memorable presentation there - *Three Generations of Indian Dance* - accompanied by Ragini Devi, her American-born mother and mentor, and her daughter, Sukanya.

Rehman was born in 1930 in the southern Indian city of Madras, the daughter of Ramalal Bhopal, an Indian scientist and president of the Indo-American League, and Esther Sherman of Petoskey, Michigan. After moving to India in the mid-1920s, Sherman, already an accomplished classical Indian dancer, changed her name to Ragini

Devi and in the late 1920s travelled south to Madras to study dance. Here, she created history by becoming the first woman to storm the male-dominated bastion of the Kathakali dance drama form that originated in Kerala state hundreds of years ago, by giving a public performance of it.

All Indian classical dance forms trace their origins to the more than 2,000-year-old *Natya Shastra*, or "Theatre Scriptures", and strive broadly to portray, through dance, scenes from ancient Hindu mythology. For example the best known, Bharata Natyam, concentrates on complex foot movement and facial expressions with the dancer's body remaining erect, while in Odissi the performer's body is curved and the movements subtly different. The difficulty in learning them stems from the fact that all classical Indian dance genres necessitate decades of intense discipline and dedication, and a serious pupil's life is nothing but a laborious exercise in honing and perfecting bodily movement to a highly evolved art form.

Rehman began learning dance at the age of five from U.R. Krishna Rao, an accomplished teacher in Bangalore, and four years later was taken by her mother on a performing spree to Paris and other European and American cities. At the age of 15 she married Habib Rehman, an Indian who was studying architecture in the US, and she returned home to continue learning dance from acknowledged gurus in the south.

Shortly after independence in 1947 Rehman attracted the attention of India's leading dance and art critic Charles Fabri, a Hungarian Jew settled in India, who promoted her in his widely read columns in *The Statesman*. He also persuaded Rehman to go to Orissa and learn the little-known Odissi which she is credited with popularising. Rehman's heyday as India's unrivalled danseuse lasted till the mid-1970s, a period during which she not only achieved international acclaim but was also awarded the Padma Shri, India's highest civilian decoration, and the prestigious Dance and Drama Academy award. In 1976 she moved to New York, where she continued to dance but concentrated more on teaching, and on encouraging and discovering new talent. Rehman's dalliance with various dance genres led to criticism that she was not a "purist", never having ever



India's unrivalled danseuse until the 1970s

Madan-Mohatta

Rehman's
captivating beauty,
her grace and
breathtaking
costumes, fired the
imagination of post-
independence India

MATRIMONIAL NOTES

PENROSE HALSON

'For my mother it was so easy,' said Janet

JANET'S MOTHER had followed the traditional path trodden by generations of young British women: school, a brief vocational training, marriage in her early twenties to a man who would invariably be some years older and more highly educated, two or three years of low-paid work, and then babies, who were considered to be a full-time job.

The pattern was ubiquitous - most of Janet's mother's schoolfriends followed suit, often staying in the area so that she had a familiar network of friends with a similar way of life. These days, however, the courting ritual has changed somewhat.

"For my mother it was so easy, so automatic," sighed Janet, a 36-year-old accountant. "She met my father at a Christmas dance in the local town hall. She was with her schoolfriends, all giggling girls of 17. My father was at university in Bristol, 40 miles away, but he was spending Christmas with his parents, doing a vacation job with the Post Office. He asked my mother for a dance and she liked him and was sorry he had to leave early - he had a late shift."

"They were too shy to suggest meeting again, but she saw him in the market two days later, when he was delivering vegetables. He offered to carry her shopping and take her to a coffee bar and it took off from there."

Some time later they got engaged. They were married two years later in church by the rector, who knew both families well. Janet's parents had waited to marry until her father had left university and got his first job - as was the norm in those days. Her mother got two A levels, took a secretarial course, and worked in an office. She still lived at home, so she saved a little, which helped them to start out.

Thirty-eight years after Janet's parents married, her mother is as perplexed as her daughter about where Janet's life is leading. There is no doubt that Janet's mother is very proud of her daughter; she tells everybody about her clever daughter, a chartered accountant with a high-powered City job, a Knightsbridge flat, powerful car and gorgeous clothes. But, when it comes to mentioning boyfriends, Janet's mother tends to go fairly quiet.

"She hoped I'd settle down with one in my twenties. My brother married, at 28, a girl he met at a local college. But I went travelling in Asia before university in Scotland, and then a job in London where I worked incredibly hard. I was always exhausted, and I lost all my childhood friends."

Janet faces the problem which confronts thirty-something young women in the 1990s who would like to marry but cannot find a suit-

able man. Her situation is not improving, nor is it likely to unless she takes some conscious action.

She can start by avoiding men who fear commitment: she lived with one from the age of 31 to 34, initially as an exciting adventure, eventually accepting sadly that he would never marry her and have children. Her mother was immensely relieved when Janet left Henry, and grieved with her when six months later Henry married a spectacular-looking but vacuous blonde of 22.

"I used almost to despise my parents' set-up, it was so cosy and bourgeois," said Janet. "I thought they and their friends had such boring lives. I can do pretty much whatever I like - but I have nobody to share it with. The men I meet are either colleagues - and you mustn't mix personal with professional - or married and wanting a fling, or serial duffers, or gay, poor, wet or divorcing and petrified of taking the emotional and financial plunge again."

"Some have children, which is a complication. Others are frightened by an intelligent and successful woman - they want someone less daunting. My mother didn't have any of that. I quite envy her."

Penrose Halson is the author of *'Happily Ever After - how to meet your match'* (Pan, £5.99)

Penny Brohn

AS SURVIVORS of the ill-fated "Chivers Report" which you mention in your excellent obituary of Penny Brohn (by Tim Bullamore, 12 February), may we correct a couple of details? write: Isla Bourke and Heather Goodare.

The women with breast cancer taking part in the survey and attending the Bristol Cancer Help Centre for complementary care numbered 334, and were compared with 461 women who underwent orthodox therapy only. The Bristol Survey Support Group, formed to challenge the research and support Penny and the centre, managed to contact 23 of the Bristol women through the cancer self-help network. Eleven of these women con-

tributed their stories to a book, *Fighting Spirit*, published in 1996 by Scarlet Press. Also, while in no way wishing to denigrate Penny's splendid and inspiring achievement, your figure for UK five-year survival of women with breast cancer should be corrected to 63 per cent.

Our work has borne fruit. Though we cannot of course claim the entire credit for trends towards consulting consumers in medical research, we have made a contribution. The Cochrane Collaboration has taken the lead in involving consumers in its work. The NHS now has a Standing Advisory Group on consumer involvement in its Research and Development programme, and

the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme also consults consumers. Moreover, "integrative medicine", rather than add-on complementary care, is the order of the day, and cancer help centres may now be found in many hospital settings - a far cry from the days when Penny Brohn was told, "There is nothing you can do to help yourself." Today every supermarket has its department of organic produce, whereas when Penny was trying to find it 20 years ago it was extremely scarce.

As she used to say about the crisis of cancer, crises can be turned into opportunities. Inspired by her, this is just what we did.

Iris Murdoch

MAY I add a note to your obituary of Iris Murdoch (by Paul Levy, 10 February)? writes Robin E. Waterfield. I first met her when she was in London just after the Second World War and writing poetry, some of which was published by my friend Tamsin Mather in the magazine *Poetry London*. They were good friends and we all used to meet in a pub in Oxford Street also frequented by poets as various as Sir John Weller and Roy Campbell.

I renewed my acquaintance with her much later when I opened a bookshop in Oxford. She found out that I was a practising Christian and wrote to me of her own beliefs, saying that she was "either a Christian Buddhist or a Buddhist Christian", she was not quite sure which.

Later she agreed to meet a schizophrenic working-class girl, Sarah-Anne Maw, whose poems I had published. Both Iris and Anne Riddler attended the little launch party we had, and Iris and Sarah-Anne sat chatting happily together. Iris was unfailingly kind and helpful and seemed to find time for all who called for help.

Later I had the pleasure of arranging for her to meet Professor John Macquarrie and Bishop Rowan Williams, who told her that the Church of England would survive, which seemed to reassure her. Her deep interest in religion and her kindness should not be forgotten.

Housebuilder credited with input tax

WHERE A housebuilder paid estate agents' fees charged in connection with sales of the existing homes of purchasers of the housebuilder's houses, it was entitled to be credited with input tax for Value Added Tax purposes in respect of those fees.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of the Redrow Group plc against a decision of the Court of Appeal that it was not entitled to be credited with input tax in respect of estate agents' fees.

The taxpayer was the representative member of a group of companies involved in constructing new houses. It operated a sales incentive scheme by which it would instruct an estate agent to handle the sale of the existing home of a prospective purchaser of one of its houses. If that purchaser completed the purchase of one of the taxpayer's houses, the taxpayer would pay the estate agent's fee.

The taxpayer deducted input tax in respect of the estate agent's fees, but the Commissioners disputed the deduction.

The taxpayer's appeal against the assessment was allowed by the Value Added Tax Tribunal, which concluded that on the evidence the agents' services were supplied to both the taxpayer and the individual purchasers, although in each particular case it was necessary to await events and see to whom the agent had made the supply, since it was only if the taxpayer became liable to pay the agent's fees that the agent's services were supplied to it.

The Commissioners' appeal to the High Court was dismissed, but that decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal, which held that, in determining whether the tax borne on any services was creditable input tax, the services in question must have a direct and immediate link with the taxpayer's taxable transactions and, viewed objectively, the estate agent's services were directly and immediately linked to the sale of an individual purchaser's home and not to the concurrent sale of a Redrow house. The taxpayer appealed.

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

18 FEBRUARY 1999

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Redrow Group plc

House of Lords (Lord Steyn, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett) 11 February 1999

Richard Bramwell QC and John Dick (Trousers and Hamlets) for the taxpayer; Paul Lasok QC and Melanie Hall (Solicitor to Customs and Excise) for the Commissioners.

Lord Millett said that in *BLP Group plc v Customs and Excise Commissioners* (1998) 1 WLR 174 the European Court of Justice had said that in order to give the right to deduct input tax under Article 17(2) of Council Directive

(EEC) 77/388, the goods or services referred to in Article 17(5) had to "have a direct and immediate link with the taxable transactions". The Court of Appeal in the present case had treated that as determinative, not merely of the question whether the agent's service was attributable to the taxpayer's taxable supplies, but also of the identity of the person to whom the supplies were made.

That was, however, a misreading of the decision in the BLP case, in which the taxpayer's claim to deduct tax, which included professional fees in connection with the sale of its shareholding in another company, was refused on the ground that the sale of the shares was an exempt supply. It followed that no part of the cost of the services in question could be attributed to the taxpayer's taxable supplies.

The starting point should be the taxpayer's claim to deduct tax. Once he had identified the payment of which the tax to be deducted formed part, the question was whether he had obtained anything used or to be used for the purpose of his business in return for that payment. That might consist of the right to have goods delivered or services rendered to a third party, and the grant of such a right was itself a supply of services. Those conditions were satisfied in the present case. It was not necessary that there should be a "direct and immediate link" between the service supplied by the agent and sale of a particular Redrow home.

KATE O'HANLON Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

KNAPP: Bryan, Rachel and James announce the birth of Matthew William on 15 January.

DEATHS

POTT: Janet. Died peacefully at home on Monday 15 February, aged 95 years.

TRETHEWEY: Chris. Died peacefully at home on 16 February 1999 aged 71 years. Beloved husband of Bridget, much-loved father of Rachel and Becky. A service of thanksgiving will be held at Central Church, Torquay, on Wednesday 24 February at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for "The Friends of Rowcroft" may be left by retiring collection or sent to Service, Wollaton House, 11 Babacombe Road, Torquay, 01803 315005.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In memoriam) are charged at £1.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Roh Andrew, rugby player, 36; Mr M.J. Argent, Chief Constable, North Wales, 54; Mr Michael Burk, broadcaster, 53; Miss Helen Gurley Brown, writer and magazine editor, 77; Miss Phyllis Calvert, actress, 84; Mr José-Maria Canizares, golfer, 52; Miss Sinead Cusack, actress, 51; Mr Roy Dean, former diplomat, 72; Mr Phillip DeFrelas, cricketer, 33; Mr Len Deighton, novelist, 70; Professor Edward Edwards, former Vice-Chancellor, Bradford University, 85; Mr Cyril English, president, Nationwide Housing Trust, 76; Mr Milos Forman, film director, 67; Sir Charles Frossard, a former judge of the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey and Bailiff of Guernsey, 77; Mr Graeme Garden, actor and scriptwriter, 56; Dr James Houston, Emeritus Physician, Guy's Hospital, 82; Sir Peter Laurence, former ambassador, 76; Miss Prue Leith, cookery editor and restaurateur, 59; Mr Peter Luff MP, 44; Professor William McKane, Emeritus Professor Hebrew and Oriental Languages, St Andrews

University, 78; Sir Arthur Norman, former chairman of De La Rue, 82; Mr Jack Palanca, actor, 79; Lord Paul, chairman, Caparo Group, 68; Mr Bobby Robson, football coach, 66; Miss Greta Scacchi, actress, 39; Miss Cybill Shepherd, actress, 49; Mr Ned Sherrin, television presenter and producer, 68; Mr Richard Thomas, former diplomat, 60; Mr John Travolta, actor, 45; Sir Max Williams, former President, the Law Society, 73; General Sir John Wilsey, former Commander-in-Chief, Land Command, 60.

DAME MARY CARTWRIGHT

A Memorial Service will be held at Gorton College, Cambridge, on Saturday 13 March 1999 for Dame Mary Cartwright, Mistress of Gorton from 1949 to 1968. The service will be held in the College Chapel at 2.30pm. Please contact Sarah Pickard, College Secretary, Gorton College, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 6JG (telephone 01223 338951, fax 01223 337021 or e-mail sjp54@cam.ac.uk).

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD LEWIN

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin will be held in the Chapel of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, at 3pm on Tuesday 13 April 1999. Dress for the occasion will be day dress (non-ceremonial) or a dark lounge suit. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets no later than Friday 5 March 1999, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope, to: Ministry of Defence, Naval Personnel Secretariat 2B3, Room 222, Victory Building, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LS.

Tickets will be despatched on Wednesday 31 March 1999. They will be issued on an individual basis and applications should include the full names of all those who wish to attend. Admission to the service will be by ticket only. In the event that ticket applications exceed Chapel capacity, it would be helpful if applicants could indicate their connection with Lord Lewin. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by post.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, attends the Outward Bound Trust Friends' Reception, at Buckingham Palace, followed by the Patron's Group by Dinner, at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal opens new wards and facilities at Sidmouth Victoria Cottage Hospital, Sidmouth, Devon; visits Sidmouth Homeopathic Clinic, Sidmouth; at Paton, Gates - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association - officially opens the new Day Centre at Providence Court, Exeter, Devon, and officially opens the new group home, Whimble, Exeter; and, as Patron, the National Autistic Society, officially opens Sanderson House, the new off-site residential unit at Brookhays School, Northam, Devon. The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Banquet Band, attends a concert at St John's Smith Square, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am: 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Fra Angelico (III): Fra Angelico at San Marco", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Liz Rideal, "Women War Artists: Elizabeth Butler and Laura Knight", 1.10pm.

My brother's legacy is ruining my life

Angie's brother was a talented but totally unsung artist. When he died a year ago, Angie promised she would get his 300 huge abstract pictures to as big an audience as she could. But no dealer nor auctioneer will have the paintings and she's having to spend £4,000 a year storing them. She says she just can't throw them away. What can she do?

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

Deathbed promises should never be asked for, made, or kept. It's so difficult to refuse a request, when someone's dying, to change your name to Scaremongering-Bonkers, to bring your child up a Moonie, or to marry Mr Wrong. And then, for ever after, when you've broken the promise, you feel like an utter swine, riddled with guilt like a cancer. Or, worse, when you've fulfilled the promise, you feel eaten up with resentment.

Angie's brother has left her a terrible legacy – a legacy of his own unrealised hopes and dreams and, ultimately, what he saw as his inadequacies.

First let's look at it in a practical way. The Tate apparently gets large numbers of letters from relatives in exactly the same position. So Angie's not alone. And as far as any friends I have in the art world know, there has been not a single painter who had absolutely no success at all before he or she died, who has later been hailed as a genius. So the chances of Angie's brother launching himself as a great, or even reasonably OK, saleable artist from the grave are, to all intents and purposes, zilch. Big abstract pictures by complete unknowns, as Angie's found out, have no mar-

ket value at all these days.

If I were Angie I'd blow this year's storage money on renting a large warehouse and having a huge exhibition. She should make slides of those pictures that don't sell and then either destroy them or give them away as canvases for young students to work on.

But, of course, this isn't a problem that's just about selling pictures. It's about bereavement. And guilt is a common little devil after a death. Perhaps Angie feels that at some level she wasn't a good enough sister to her brother when he was alive and selling his pictures would assuage her guilt. Perhaps she can't bear to acknowledge his death completely and is hanging on to some part of him. Perhaps in some awful way it's worth £4,000 a year to put off the day when she has to acknowledge that he's really gone. While she still has his pictures on her mind he is, in a way, still alive for her.

I wonder whether it would help to see his work as being a necessary part of a much larger picture.

Like seeds in a field, millions need to be sown for a few to come up. If Angie could see her brother's work as some of the crucially important seeds strewn around the abstract movement, would his life's work seem quite so

meaningless? Only some are chosen to survive, and sometimes they're not the right ones and it's not always fair, but they can't all thrive because there simply isn't room. As it is, there have been more than 10,500 "name" artists at work in Britain and North Ireland since the 1940s. There just isn't space for any more, even though these are merely the tip of the iceberg.

Goethe said "Our deaths keep the universe young". This means the death not just of people but also of their creations.

Angie's brother made a contribution in his way during his lifetime, if only to be part of the abstract movement in the ether. He and his art haven't died in vain. But to try to keep his works going at this stage is like slapping the cheeks of a corpse to bring it back to life.

Angie has tried to fulfil her brave promise – she couldn't have done more. Now she should let both her brother, and his works, die in peace.

DILEMMAS

WITH VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



This is an impossible task Angie does not yet know what she is up against. I do. My husband is a talented artist producing huge, unsaleable abstract paintings. I have spent 15 years, written hundreds of letters, cajoled dozens of gallery directors, humped the things around, up and down stairs, lifted and heaved them for hanging until I have nearly dropped with exhaustion. In 15 years, about six or eight have been sold. I have tried giving them away – no one wants them. If the pictures are oil on canvas on a stretched frame, I suggest Angie take them all off the frames and store them rolled up. The stretchers can be sold, or given, to art students. If the pictures are framed, she can sell the frames. Artists, in my experience, do not seem to realise that the fun and achievement of painting is in the act of "doing".

JW
Hertfordshire

This is about bereavement Poor Angie. She must have been very close to her brother and probably ambitious for him though I suspect that he just found his painting an absorbing and fulfilling hobby. In her grief I think that she is attempting to keep his memory alive. He might well have been shocked if he had realised that she would feel she

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

must keep and sell his pictures – was he aware of what her promise would mean to her?

She needs bereavement counselling and the courage to get a frank professional assessment of the oeuvre – then hang a few small favourites in her home and get rid of the rest. I think this is what he would have wanted.

JANE GOODWIN
Maidstone, Kent

Why not try the Internet?

There can be no wider audience than the Internet. Why not set up a web page and take digital pictures of the paintings, offering them for sale or free to a good home. This should certainly cost

less than £4,000 a year. If you don't know someone who can help you do this, there are evening classes in how to set up websites and in digital imaging, so you could gain a new hobby and friends too.

ROSEMARY NOBLE
Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Send them to a hospice. Many hospitals and hospices have arts programmes that seek to lift the spirits of patients. It may be that (if suitable), the paintings could reach a wide audience if she offered them, on loan or for sale, to hospitals in her locality.

ANNE GREER
Arts co-ordinator, Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, This may seem trivial, but it means a lot to me. Recently I've seen a doctor at the local hospital, and a consultant. Though I'm middle-aged (and they're the same age or younger) they address me by my first name. What I find so annoying is that they expect me to address them as Mr or Dr So-and-So. To say "I'd prefer you to call me Mrs Palmer" sounds pompous, and I don't want a consultation to get off to an unpleasant start.

How can I deal with this in a civilised way?
Yours sincerely, Sally

Anyone who has their advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, "The Independent", 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail dilemmas@independent.co.uk – giving a postal address for the bouquet

Cambridge is not a city, it is a social, economic and scientific triumph. A phenomenon. Yet because of its success people can't afford to live, work or travel there. By Ann Treneman

Where are the real people?

You may think that Cambridge has very little to worry about. It is that rarest of things in Britain – a real success. The gown-town has become a boom-town. All this and great architecture too.

The people of Cambridge are not shy about noting any of this. Some may say they were a bit smug, but perhaps there is reason to be. The university is seen as outstripping Oxford these days. The town has attracted 1,100 hi-tech firms, with 35,000 rather good jobs to go with them. The county has been the fastest-growing in England for the last 20 years and is expected to be so for the next 20. Why, even Bill Gates is a tourist when he comes to Cambridge.

It is called Silicon Fen, but the locals have a better name for it: the Cambridge Phenomenon. People use this phrase a lot. They do not bother to explain it because it is assumed that you know. But now there is Trouble in Phenomenon Land. The first hint of this is the fact that people are obsessed with the price of housing. And this is not a middle-class thing. This is a survival thing.

A two-bedroom terraced house in the out-of-the-way part of town is going for £100,000. Flats costing £160,000 or so are talked of in wonderment and horror. "It is almost as bad as London," they say, but in fact there is no "almost" about it.

Cambridge has brought this on itself. In the Fifties, the architect William Holford had the vision that Cambridge must keep itself special. It must not become humdrum. That meant no smokestacks, like dirty old Oxford, and no fringe development. The town has stayed true to the Holford Plan of 1951. Any newcomers who wanted to live in a reasonably priced family home were politely shown the way to a nice semi-detached out in the Fens. But not everyone obliged, and so housing prices kept climbing and the social mix became more extreme.

"Only the very poor and the fairly rich can afford to live in Cambridge nowadays," says Alison Quant, a local county planner.

It has been a wonderful life, but will not be so for much longer. The Government has told Greater Cambridge that it needs to build 71,000 new homes in the next 20 years. This is a lot. Cambridge itself has only 45,000 now. But everyone agrees that the boom must not turn to bust. The Phenomenon must not fail.

So where do you put the houses? Cambridge itself is full up. And so the big debate has begun. Last week's public consultation exercise attracted 23 people on the panel alone. Everyone agrees on one thing: Cambridge must not become Berkshire. This prospect is viewed with horror. There is there-



The prevailing order of things in Cambridge. But what about the needs of the locals? Brian Harris

fore talk of a New Town, or even two. There are always the Fens, of course, but even one more commuter on top of the current 37,000 is too many. The green belt is truly in danger this time. "The green belt is not beautiful," snaps one businessman. "It is bloody flat and boring!"

I drive through this flat, boring, beautiful land on my way in to Cambridge. You can tell where it ends, because the green turns to brown and there are diggers everywhere. Here a science park, there a factory. Every project is flagged up as something like "innovation". It feels rather American.

What is wrong and right with this town, and with good reason. Some, such as Trinity, are not just rich but fabulously so. They have taken the land given to them by one King Henry or another and done extremely well. Trinity developed the booming Science Park and St John's founded the Innovation Park on land it has owned since 1534.

In a neat trick, the colleges have become mini-development corporations, ancient institutions of learning and hugely influential landowners all at once. "There is no point in allocating land for building in west Cambridge, unless the colleges want to build on it,

\$20m. I am taken aback by such astronomical figures and say that many people seem impressed enough by Cambridge as it is.

What about the Cambridge Phenomenon? "In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king," he says.

Mr Hauser says no growth is simply unthinkable. Walter Herriot agrees. He is the manager of the Innovation Park, which is a launch-pad for new businesses. Mr Herriot says there are 20 millionaires on site as we speak. The ethos feels American in its studied casualness. Mr Herriot is not wearing a suit. He comes out to meet

never have happened in the UK. So, at this point, we would have lost two world wars and would probably be a tourist economy having to take our clothes off, paint ourselves blue and run around trying to attract others to see us in our rural idyll."

Michael Flood lives in a different Cambridge – a bedsit in the east of the city or, in fact, half a bedsit. I find him ferreting around in a rubbish bin in a little park just off St John's Street, in the heart of the ancient centre. He says he is looking for bread to feed to the birds, and will speak to me only if I give him £5. I agree.

Some tourists go by, who look as if they might take the picture. Mr Flood says he cannot work and is very ill, leukaemia being the worst of it. He looks worn beyond his 56 years. His eyes are rheumy. He has been on the council's housing list for five years. Once a day or so he has a meal for £1 at the charity Overstream House.

Mr Flood says that housing is something that the poor and homeless often talk about over this meal. The ordinary working man cannot afford anywhere to live in Cambridge and that needs to change. He names some specific sites for housing, but then stops. "The universities have all the property in Cambridge," he says. "They need to provide houses for students. Where I live, if somebody advertises a room, a student takes it. The ordinary, average working man has got no chance."

Cambridge has to crack its "grow or die" problem, but so far there is too much talk and not enough sense. The surrounding necklaces of villages are full of Nimby types and the townspeople simply feel lucky to have homes that are worth a fortune.

I need a wise man, and I find him in Professor Marcial Echenique, architect and professor. He formed Cambridge Futures at the request of the mayor and the vice-chancellor. Now it has produced a report showing seven different ways that Cambridge can grow, in each case the impact on the social mix, economy and environment are examined.

The only option that won't work at all, he maintains, is no growth. Then, he says, Cambridge will become a "Laura Ashley" town full of wealthy people who won't be able to get their shoes repaired. He sees the current dilemma as being just important as the one in 1951.

"It is crucial. Clearly the Government sees this as a test case. We could become a museum, or we could spoil the town with too much development. Or if we are clever enough, we will find a combination that works." But, I say, surely Cambridge is full of clever people. He shrugs. "Yes, well that is what they claim."

I leave and get stuck in the traffic. I shrug. After all, it's just the Cambridge Phenomenon.

'The universities have all the properties in Cambridge. They need to provide houses for the students. If somebody advertises a room, a student takes it. The ordinary, average working man has got no chance'

But only for an instant. Then I join the traffic queue that is crawling towards the town centre. The roads get smaller as the architecture becomes more spectacular. It is claustrophobic. Soon it is like driving inside one of those ship-in-a-bottle things. There is nowhere to go: escape is always just another street away.

The next day I take the train there. The station is a good hike from the city centre and I'm told this is because the colleges did not want it any closer. When you own most of the land in the city centre – as the colleges do – you can decide such things. The colleges seem to get the blame for much of

because they own it all," says Alison Quant. All of it? She thinks for a moment. "Yes, except for a few bits." Planning is not a sexy topic ordinarily, but everyone in this town, from the richest venture capitalist to the poorest of men, talk of it with real passion. Hermann Hauser, the founder of Acorn Computers and the head of the Amadeus Fund, is positively aggressive about it all.

He says that the graduates of Stanford University in California have generated business worth \$1 trillion. MIT graduates can lay claim to half a trillion but Cambridge graduates would barely claim to have generated

me. He makes his own coffee. He says they try to be as American as possible. It is a can-do country and Cambridge needs to be more can-do too. Mr Herriot wants another 37,000 new jobs here. He wants Cambridge to be the knowledge-based centre of Europe in the 21st century. And that means houses, sooner rather than later. The green belt, he says, is a noose.

Mr Herriot says that people whinge too much. He comes from Liverpool. Now there is a city that would love to have Cambridge's problems.

"If you went back to the 19th century and there were such controls then, the Industrial Revolution would

POETIC LICENCE

OLD WAR STORIES

BY MARTIN NEWELL

The German Culture Minister, Mr Michael Naumann, claims that we British are obsessed with the War. He says: "There is only one nation in the world that has decided to make the Second World War a sort of spiritual core of its national self, understanding and pride."



Perhaps the ancient films on daytime telly drip-feed the small obsession to us still. The little ships, the sirens and the shelters. The "Crikey, Bertie's bought it!" of it all. The cheery WAAF's with Elstree Studio accents who did their bit and waited for the planes. Wore frocks off-duty, stockings, bright-red lipstick. Then married men called Charlie, Les or Ron. Who settled down in semis, flats and prefabs with furniture marked CC forty-ooo. And spawned a brood of adonoidal rockers. Their pimply ingrate sons with red guitars who'd learned the war from *Hotspur*, *Combat Library*, *Victory At Sea* and Sergeant Rock. Wing Commander Gibson, Airfix Spitfires. "Take that, squarehead!" "Gott in Himmel!" "Aargh!" Perhaps that's all we had, the jokes and memories. Like shells ploughed up on farmland, old barbed wire. To compensate for six years requisitioned; A nationalised Valhalla of our own...

Until the British beat groups toured the bases. And pensioners took boat-trips up The Rhine. And businessmen flew twice a week to Stuttgart. And brickies married nurses from Cologne. And bikers went to Bierkests near to Munich. And ravers went for weekends in Berlin. And councillors to Hamburg on exchange trips. To study housing, transport or design. And then the thing was over – but it wasn't. The punchline still remains, without the joke. And hangs there like a catchphrase from a gameshow. Which no-one can remember any more. Perhaps it's just a tatty family heirloom. A thing kept in a corner in the hall. That's trundled in for birthdays, then forgotten. Redundant now but ganz gemütlich still. Achtung then Fritz. For you der var is offer. The same for us... although you'd never tell. The reason we're still laughing is – it's stupid. And stupid is a thing we do quite well.

Prick up your ears

Channel 4 gay romp drama shock! (So say the tabloids.) But what's all the fuss about? By James Rampton

Preview tapes for *Queer as Folk*, C4's new gay drama, were kept under strict lock and key until the press screening last week. When I was finally allowed to watch them, I could see why. Within the first few minutes, a 29-year-old man is bedding a 15-year-old boy after a mere handful of words have passed between them. The three main characters, who frequent The Scene in Manchester's "gay village", proceed to discuss and perform sexual practices that are far too shocking to recount, even in such a broad-minded newspaper as *The Independent*.

It came as no surprise. The day I was on the set of *Queer as Folk* in Manchester last autumn, the call-sheet made for eyebrow-raising reading. Under the heading "special requirements" was a request for what during Kenneth Starr's examination of Monica Lewinsky's blue dress was euphemistically called "bodily fluid". From that moment I knew that this series was going to incense the tabloids.

Sure enough, the predictable popular-press firestorm engulfed *Queer as Folk*. The *Daily Mail* fumed that the programme was "consistent with [C4] controller Michael Jackson's mission to flout the boundaries of taste and decency", while The *Daily Star* went with the fetchingly simple headline: "EastEnders." Further gasoline was thrown on to the flames when C4 mooted that the final word of the title might have been a rather stronger four-letter word beginning with F.

But is this drama really worth getting so hot under the collar about? After all, nobody gives two hoots about openly gay cabinet ministers nowadays. And when even *The Sun* declares that homosexuality among public figures should no longer be an issue, aren't we grown-up enough to say the same should apply to characters in a fictional TV series? Surely we have advanced since the era when gay figures—like John Inman's Mr Humphries in *Are You Being Served?*—could be portrayed on television only in outrageous "coded" stereotypes. After all, we are now sufficiently mature to accept overtly gay characters in both soaps (Anna Friel in *Brookside*) and sitcoms (James Dreyfuss in *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*).

Sitting in his caravan between takes, Craig Kelly—the actor who plays Vince, one of the three leads in *Queer as Folk*—thinks that in the late Nineties we should be able to make our own decisions about what we want to watch.

"I know the papers feel the subject matter is risqué, but I don't know why they feel threatened by it, because people don't have to watch it if it's not their cup of tea."

Over lunch in the catering-bus, the writer and co-producer of *Queer as Folk*, Russell T Davies, ascribes the tabloid frothing at the mouth to nothing more complex than good old-fashioned prejudice.

"There's such fear in homophobic people. You want to do pop psychology on them: 'Did some dirty old man lean over your pram?' It's primeval, and an amount of nice gay characters on *EastEnders* will ever shift that."

Further than that, he can't really see what all the fuss is about.



'Queer as Folk': just another 'This Life' but with better dress sense

"Look at me, I'm shaking with fear about the *Daily Mail*," he roars with laughter. "They're never going to watch this anyway. And what is so wrong with sex? At the moment we've got an argument about whether or not we can show sperm. You can show blood on *Casualty*. Where would

we be without sperm? It's the most marvellous substance in nature."

All the same, not every viewer may welcome its appearance, even at 10.30pm on Channel 4. Sex is always a selling-point—particularly in this ratings-obsessed age—and deep down the producers of *Queer*

as *Folk* must be thinking that any publicity is good publicity. But, beyond the hysteria about homosexuality, this is just another hip-cut drama about twenty-something urban sophisticates, a sort of *This Life* with even better dress sense. Kelly contends that sex is a mere distraction—

there are only three sex scenes in eight episodes—and that viewers should not get hung up about it.

"The piece may surprise people because it's a slice of life about characters who happen to be gay; normal people with normal lives. There isn't anything that different from the straight world. It's not a bizarre, alien universe. We can all relate to the search for love and friendship."

Davies underlines that his intention was to write a drama, not a "gay drama".

"I was adamant that there would be no 'issue stories'. Someone once said to me: 'Isn't it fantastic that there's a gay nurse in *Casualty*?' and I said: 'No! Gay characters invariably walk in with a subplot on their heads—'Ooh, I've got AIDS; ooh, I want to be a gay parent.' They do not exist as three-dimensional people. When he writes, Jimmy McGovern is thinking about anger and emotion rather than issues."

Nor does Davies feel obliged to wave a political banner on behalf of gay people.

"Do I go out to a gay pub to be militant? No, I sit there and say: 'Have you had him?' I just wanted to write a story which has the rhythms of everyday life. Drama lies in your friend not turning up for your party, not in someone being beaten up. In the past, drama involving gays had to include bisexual heroin addicts and lesbian vicars. Now two people having a cup of tea is dramatic enough."

The writer, who is also responsible for *The Grand*, *Touching Evil* and *Revelations* on ITV, has an equal horror of the idea that gay characters should be "representative" of a whole community.

"That's just worthy. Who the hell wants their drama to be representative? That comes from the dull and sanctimonious desire to 'do the right thing'. Writers who think: 'I must represent blind lesbians', are on to a loser. Every other episode of *Casualty* is like that. People didn't say about *Cracker*: 'Does Fitz represent Scotland, or overweight people?' All they said was: 'He's a brilliant character.' The word 'representation' shouldn't enter the discussion of drama."

In this respect, the figure of Colin in *EastEnders* 10 years ago, who was the first openly gay character in a mainstream drama, has a lot to answer for.

"He set a terrible precedent because every gay character on TV since has been a pale version of Colin," says Davies. "Have you ever seen a good scene between Simon and Tony in *EastEnders*? They have no character—they're just gay. Why can't they make gay characters as strong as the Mitchells? Things must move on." If shows such as *Queer as Folk* continue to be commissioned, maybe they will.

For all his evident enthusiasm about the series, Davies is concerned that it doesn't lead to him being ghettoised.

"I don't want to be tagged as a 'gay writer'. That might limit my work. My agent phoned the other day and said: 'It's starting. You've been offered a job writing a 30-minute animation about a dinosaur who comes out.' I could not say 'no' fast enough." Then in a wry nod at the tabloids, he adds with a grin: "I hope it's not Barney—the kids might be shocked."

'Queer as Folk' starts Tues, C4, 10.30pm

Better by design

DANCE

JEREMY JAMES & COMPANY
THE PLACE THEATRE
LONDON

CONTEMPORARY DANCE audiences know Jeremy James well: a neat, darting figure, always there, performing for the best companies—Rambert, Sidihan Davies, DV8. Now 37, he has suddenly become elusive and was not physically present on the Place Theatre stage, although his influence was everywhere. Jeremy James & Company, founded in 1993, is devoted to his reincarnation as a choreographer. His programme, showing in London as part of a longer tour, was deemed stylish enough to open the city's annual "Spring Loaded" showcase for the newer reaches of British dance.

James has clearly learnt important lessons from the choreographers he has worked with. He has a sharp eye for form and pattern, and makes exacting demands on his five dancers, craving hyper-articulate movement for its own sake, like a painter reveling in the possibilities of line and colour.

In the absence of narrative, we look for a clue in underlying intention in a piece's title. We begin with a female triad called *Juice*, which offers no help. The dancing has a flamboyant mobility—perhaps even a "juiciness"—the body dislocated into separate segments that twist and hiccup. There is a pleasing structural clarity operating on the principle of enlargement: the piece begins with a solo in silence for Tammy Arjona, adds a second dancer and the sound of a pencil on paper, and then the third dancer and some rock music.

Especially pleasing is James's sense of group design, the dance spreading in contrasted striations, collecting in flickering clusters and forming blocks where thrusts and parries slant into each other. In Paris, these textures coexist with Matteo Sargion's obsessive piano phrases, repeated over and over as if someone were practising each hand separately. Once or twice, the hands seem to merge to produce a brief passage of tantalising complexity. And that seems to summarise James's piece: an ambitious juxtaposition of disparate parts, including abstract film projections, that compete for your attention, but sometimes get together into a satisfying completeness.

In *My Big Points*, the dancers battle with some invisible advancing force, shrinking away from it, then retreating with pushes. Peter Morris's score switches disconcertingly from uncomfortable, tingling electronic filaments to Fifties dance-band music. The splendidly named Ursula Bombshell dresses the dancers in baggy trousers that explain, at least superficially, the equally splendid title. Is there a further significance? Perhaps James is a tease rather than a mere puzzle. He certainly gives the impression of a conscientious, not a careless mind. Everything is carefully moulded and polished, producing a sophistication that I was not expecting.

NADINE MEISNER

Somebody be outrageous. Quick

NO IMPROMPTU cold showers, no pop star *derrières*, not so much as a flying egg. Even with the generous array of targets at Tuesday night's Brits, including Cher, Cherie, Mo'Nique and Whitney, the most controversial moment arrived when The Corrs were declared superior to REM and "no said 'bollocks'".

The last two years' award ceremonies have seen the Deputy Prime Minister doused with the contents of an ice bucket by Chumbawamba's Danbert Nobacon, and Michael Jackson's ego bruised by the sight of Jarvis Cocker's behind. To avoid any further calamity, this year's event was so rigorously organised that every drop of atmosphere seemed to have been ushered out of the auditorium along with the hangers-on.

The difficulties that faced

POP BRIT AWARDS LONDON ARENA

potential pranksters were manifold. First, they were up against a wall of security that would have made Parkhurst look like a holiday camp. At least two beely men covered head to toe in gadgetry guarded each lamp-lit table. They seemed more concerned about errant celebrities than fans, since it took three of them to usher the pint-sized Kylie Minogue back to her place. To quell any political rallying, the New Labour contingent was seated well out of harm's way, though Boy George still entertained them to "leave our vegetables alone".

And would the audience have noticed anyway? Most of them seemed more concerned

with who was scoffing the vol-au-vents than with who was winning prizes. The only real enthusiasm seemed to come from the competition-winners, who occasionally managed to outdo the canned applause with their squealing.

Johnny Vaughan did his best to spice up the proceedings, despite the fact that his carefully honed script had been stolen from his car the night before. His gentle ribbing sometimes bordered on rude, particularly when he hinted that Celine Dion resembled a certain part of a bus.

With teen acts dominating the charts, the organisers were clearly at a loss as to what to do with them all. A brainwave arrived in the form of an apocryphal "Abba medley" in which Steps, B'witched, Billie and Cleopatra cavorted about the stage in panto outfits that



Winner takes all: Robbie Williams Andrew Bushman

were presumably intended to evoke the Seventies. Disappointingly, Boyzone got a slot to themselves as they grined their way through Billy Ocean's "When the Going Gets Tough."

Some stars struggled to hide their disdain when they collected their prizes. As

Fatboy Slim, aka Nurman Cook, took the podium after being awarded the best dance act, he waved a piece of paper saying: "Speechless", and stalked off in silence. Desperate not to be upstaged, Robbie Williams later held up a sign saying: "Legless", as he

picked up his second award.

But the evening was not without its emotional moments. Seeing Bono weaving his way between the tables to present an award to the former world heavyweight champion Mohammed Ali for his contribution to the Drop The Debt campaign brought a genuine lump to the throat. And Cher, jiggling to her techno-inspired "Do You Believe" and surrounded by lookalike dancers, was enough to make your eyes water.

The climax of the show was when Stevie Wonder joined the lifetime achievers Eurythmics to perform a hotch-potch of their Eighties hits. But despite their best efforts to look hip, Lennox and Stewart's Union Jack suits were no match for Ginger Spice's patriotic get-up of two years ago.

FIONA STURGES

Still teenage after all these years

THE FARRELLY brothers' charming if tasteless comedy *There's Something About Mary* did more than just bring sperm-as-hair-gel and stalking jokes into the comedy mainstream. It also restored Jonathan Richman, Boston's nasal poet of love and loss and matters teenage, to the public eye after too long away, as he punctuated the plot with wise snippets of song.

With a new album of his gently swinging acoustic folk *I'm So Confused* due out next week and three sold-out nights

POP JONATHAN RICHMAN JAZZ CAFÉ LONDON

at the Jazz Café—a swanky sort of concrete box where the glasses really are made of glass—his career is back on track. Deservedly so. Tuesday night's show, just Richman and the stand-up drummer Tommy Larkins—a curiously Bronsonesque figure in drainpipes—was wonderful. The crowd adored him, from the

opener "Fender Stratocaster", a touching tribute to the world's favourite plank of wood in which Richman attempted to emulate great stylists (and hearing someone copy the surf guitar hero Dick Dale on an acoustic guitar will not soon be forgotten), to the concluding a cappella "Arrivederci Roma".

In between, he told jokes, repeatedly put down his guitar to dance erratically (always to huge cheers), mugged like Roberto Benigni, and generally charmed in a way unlikely

in a forty-something man given to behaving like a hyperactive teenager, all to Larkins' pounding beat.

Richman's apparent *naïveté* has long been part of the act, but his new songs seemed more like advice from an elder brother. "True Love Is Not Nice" is an incisive dissection of painfully explicable behaviour, though "Love Me Like I Love" with its plaintive complaint "when I was six years old/I never dreamed I would grow up to feel isolated" proved an emotion too far for

an easily embarrassed English audience. The lovely "I Can Hear Her Fighting With Herself", and the hilarious "Nineteen In Naples", with its wonderful talkover: "I'm checking in the pensione, it's 2am... the Italian guys are playing poker in their underwear... I'll never forget that", became instant favourites.

Older songs such as "Pablo Picasso", introduced by a workout far funkier than a drummer and one guitarist have any right to be, the knowing "Give Paris More

Try", and even a snippet of "Egyptian Reggae" (Richman's biggest UK hit, more than 20 years ago) were equally good, with the high spot his touching tribute to the Velvet Underground. Even if his comic Lou Reed impression did sound like Bob Dylan. Great stuff. A room full of reserved adults, straining under responsibilities and male-pattern baldness, singing along to the chorus "I was dancing in the Lesbian Bar" was a fine sight. He's very special.

STEVE JELBERT

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1999

The director of the cult movies *Absolute Beginners* and *Earth Girls Are Easy* talks about his new film *Vigo*. Inspired by the work of the visionary French film-maker Jean Vigo, the film is a passionate portrayal of his life.

Questions and answers will be followed by a special preview of the film *Vigo* which precedes its theatrical release in the UK in the Spring.

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ANTHONY QUINN

AFFLICTION (15)
DIRECTOR: PAUL SCHRADER
STARRING: NICK NOLTE,
JAMES COBURN, SISSY SPACEK,
WILLEM DAFÖE
113 MINUTES

In Paul Schrader's majestically sombre film *Affliction*, Nick Nolte gives a performance of such rage and sorrow the screen seems hardly big enough to contain him. Nolte has hinted at this brutish grandeur before – as the painter in Martin Scorsese's segment of *New York Stories*, for instance – but this time he truly turns himself inside out for the cause. He plays Wade Whitehouse, a hulking traffic cop in a small, snowbound New Hampshire town where everybody knows each other's business. It's a place blasted not just by snow and wind but by the possibility of extinction – developers want to turn the area into a ski resort.

That possibility only gradually occurs to Wade, who's got problems of his own to worry about. His ex-wife has gone stone cold on him, and seems to be turning their daughter the same way; he's signed up a lawyer he can't afford to sort out custody. His mother has just died in the house his father (James Coburn) is too senile to keep warm. He makes anxious long-distance phonecalls to his brother Rolfe (Willem Dafoe), who managed to escape their small town years ago. And, to cap it all, Wade has a lulu of a toothache. Whether nursing a beer at the local bar or lumbering gracelessly through the streets, he has the air of a man desperate to believe he can still make something of his life.

Adapting from the novel by Russell Banks, Schrader sets up what appears to be a murder mystery. A visiting businessman dies in a hunting accident, which Wade

Nick Nolte in *Affliction*: it's not often that one sees vulnerability so delicately entwined with volcanic anger

investigates as a matter of routine; on learning that the dead man was a union bigwig he begins to suspect that a real-estate conspiracy is afoot. His brother supports this theory. All of Wade's confused resentment and paranoia start beating up as he becomes convinced of wrongdoing in high places.

Yet the film has thrown us a feint. Just as it looks poised to be a snow-blinded ver-

sion of *Chinatown*, it turns inward rather than outward: its real subject is the damaged psychology – the spiritual toothache – of Wade himself. Grainy flashbacks recount how he and Rolfe were tyrannised by their violent drunk of a father, who tells them, "You'll thank me for this one day, boys" (telltale words of the self-justifying abuser). We come to realise that Wade is at war with his genes: he's terrified of turn-

ing into the same monster as his father. It's understandable why Schrader cares so passionately about this material. He and his older brother Leonard were raised by Dutch Calvinist parents whose religious orthodoxy went hand-in-hand with a near-sadistic bent; in Peter Biskind's recent book *Easy Riders, Raging Bulls*, Leonard recalled how their father used to whip him six or seven times a week. Whatever scars

the experience left on the younger Schrader, it also gave him his subject: the agony of men – fathers, brothers, husbands – struggling to overcome their violent instincts. His scriptwriting on *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull* is well documented, yet I think his greatest work was the underrated *Light Sleeper*, a mysterious, intimate film in which Willem Dafoe's drug dealer ghosted around New York like a lost soul

from Dante. Dafoe's role as narrator in *Affliction* is less satisfactory, and points up the film's slightly stilted literariness: why does he relate Wade's story in this detached, over-deliberate manner? By the end one may have worked out an answer to the question, but the dispassionate tone seems prissy, and even rather sinister, from a man who purports to love his brother.

Despite the awkwardness of this framing device, the film is kept alive by the immensely powerful grip of Nick Nolte's performance. It's not often one sees vulnerability so delicately entwined with volcanic anger. With his pinprick eyes and DIY haircut, Wade has the not-too-bright look of the town's chief sad case, yet he seems well-liked by its folk. He just doesn't quite get people. His galumphing efforts at tenderness towards his daughter suddenly cloud over into moroseness, and we sense how deeply he is afflicted by lack of understanding; he's willing, indeed desperate, to love, yet there's something badly askew in his emotional responses. Whenever we see him tense up in his father's presence, lines from Larkin toll insistently: "Man hands on misery to man." It deepens like a coastal shelf. As Nolte's performance builds, the similarities between father and son take on a tragic inevitability. (Wade's peculiar habit of licking a dab of salt from the back of his hand is a direct imitation of his old man.) "I shoulda froze," says Coburn as he looks upon his dead wife, not realising that his sons' patrimony has been one big chill.

American cinema is strewn with studies of anguished father-son conflicts, yet few have brought the same depth and intricacy to the task as Schrader and Nolte do here. Any disappointment over *Affliction* refusing to become the detective story it seems to promise is eclipsed by a feeling that this unpredictable director has delivered a valuable and complex work of art. The film's most memorable image is of Wade sitting alone in his kitchen, while through the window, in full view, a barn is ablaze. It contrasts the stillness of an Edward Hopper with the molten fury of a mind in meltdown.

The patience and exactness of Schrader's storytelling, and the commitment of a fine cast that includes Sissy Spacek as Wade's defeated girlfriend, lend the movie something deeper than a small-town tragedy – it's a wintry fatalism that haunts and holds.

ALSO SHOWING

THIS YEAR'S LOVE DAVID KANE (18) ■ HOLY MAN STEPHEN HEREK (PG) ■ FOREIGN LAND WALTER SALLES/DANIELA THOMAS (NC)

"THE BRIT FILM SENSATION OF 1999" THE OUT
"KATHY BURKE IS A DELIGHT" DRIVING
"HILARIOUS" "SUPERB"
A SORT OF 'FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL' ON AGIO" WINTER
"CRACKING COMEDY" BLAST
"A TAUT CAC-FILLED SCRIPT... PLUS A BEVY OF TOP NOTCH PERFORMANCES" DESIGNER

KATHY BURKE JENNIFER EHLE IAN HART DOUGLAS HENSHALL
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this Year's Love

your pad or mine?

STEREOPHONIC OCEAN COLOUR SCENE CARTRIDGE

AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW

GREAT THINGS are expected of *This Year's Love*, a Camden-set comedy that entangles its gifted Anglo-Scotts cast in a cat's-cradle of pairings and partings. First up the aisle are tattoo-artist Danny (Douglas Henshall) and clothes designer Hannah (Catherine McCormack), though married bliss evaporates before the cake has been cut when Danny discovers his bride has recently bonked the best man. Their split ushers in a ronde of bed-hopping and partner-swapping: there's Cameron (Dougray Scott), a philandering artist so unwashed you could grow mushrooms on him; there's Sophie (Jennifer Ehle), a self-loathing trust-farian and single mum; Marey (Kathy Burke), a hopeful club singer and self-styled "fat bird"; and Liam (Ian Hart), a nerdy Liverpoolian romantic with a vulnerable streak.

Divided into three one-year segments, David Kane's film ponders the impermanence of love and the comedy of happenstance. Its upfront way with sex and relationships – the conviction that it's somehow "telling it like it is" – has already won comparisons with the cult soap *This Life*. The obvious difference is that our attitudes to the *This Life* ensemble were changed and deepened over a period of weeks: we felt as though we were getting to know them. At feature length, on the other hand, time is at a premium, and the possibilities of character development are limited. Nuance is hunted as months are concentrated into minutes.

Yet the film's failure to emulate a cult soap can't be used as the stick to beat it with. *This Year's Love* has larger problems in script and scope, problems that afflict all British romantic comedies to one degree or another. I think it's the effort to be simultaneously cute and streetwise that undoes it, particularly when the tone darkens in the latter half. While you may ascribe the implausibility of the chance en-

counters to romantic licence, benefit of the doubt is sharply withdrawn once Liam tries to commit suicide after finding Hannah in bed with another woman. (He must be the only 30-year-old man in London who's never heard of a lesbian before.) Abortion and mental illness rub shoulders uneasily with domestic violence and class snobbery, yet they're never anything more than pit-stops on the route to the big romantic set-piece we've seen coming a mile off. In other words, it's this year's try for the *Four Weddings* jackpot.

The case of Eddie Murphy is a curious one. What other actor has turned in a blistering debut (48 Hours, back in 1983), done almost nothing of worth since, and yet remained a box-

office success? The best you can say of his performance in *Holy Man* is that it's not an embarrassment. He plays G, an itinerant seeker who's discovered oo a Miami roadside by Ricky (Jeff Goldblum), a TV shopping-channel executive whose career is on the slide. In a desperate bid to halt his slump, Ricky puts his new friend on air, and suddenly the holy man's beatific patter is racking up the sales.

For a while it seems that *Holy Man* intends to satirise the imbecility of American consumerism. In fact, the film is just another soft-centred redemption-through-love story as comely executive Kate (Kelly Preston) tries to show Ricky the error of his exploitative ways. Goldblum, who knows a thing or two about squandering his talent, starts off in rare form: with his crocodile smile and heavy-lidded eyes he

makes this sleazeball huckster appealing, even endearing. (His true métier is slime, and I mean that as a compliment.) Once the film reaches for the moral high ground it deadens his comic rhythms; he's any old sap in a suit. Perhaps recognising the lameness of the script, Murphy and Goldblum have some fun together ad-libbing, but it doesn't help the time pass any more swiftly. Pity poor Brazil. The country elects its first president in 1990 after 30 years of military dictatorship and he thanks them by confiscating the saving accounts of the entire population. This Draconian measure – the starting-point of Walter Salles and Daniela Thomas's *Foreign Land* – causes one old woman in São Paulo to expire, leaving her son Paco (Fernando Alves Pinto) to organise a funeral he can scarcely afford. Drunk and disconsolate in a bar one night, he is approached by a stranger willing to pay him for a courier job to Lisbon. Meanwhile, a young Brazilian woman named Alex (Fernanda Torres) is selling her passport to crooks in a Lisbon café, while her junkie boyfriend gets in deep with his underworld confreres.

Shot in inky black and white, the film is a good deal more entertaining than the publicity notes would have you believe ("Racism... and the universal hopelessness of a whole generation are the underlying themes of *Foreign Land*". Blimey!). In fact, it's a melodrama of exile whose plotlines eventually converge and gather speed; by the end I was happily enthralled in a tenebrous thriller of cross-country chases and leering villains. Whether this spearheads a renaissance in Brazilian film-making is difficult to say (it was actually made in 1995), but there's an impressive confidence at work here.

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Rebel with a cause

Sean Penn no longer beats up journalists. That was just a phase he was going through. But he's still at war with the fraudulence of Hollywood. By Sarah Gristwood

For an actor who dislikes publicity, Sean Penn has a knack for getting in the papers. On the one hand, there's his long-standing threat of giving up acting, this time reissued at the moment when he has five new films about to open here. On the other there's the current row over the private jet he demanded to promote Terrence Malick's *The Thin Red Line*, which so memorably saw him labelled a "perk pig".

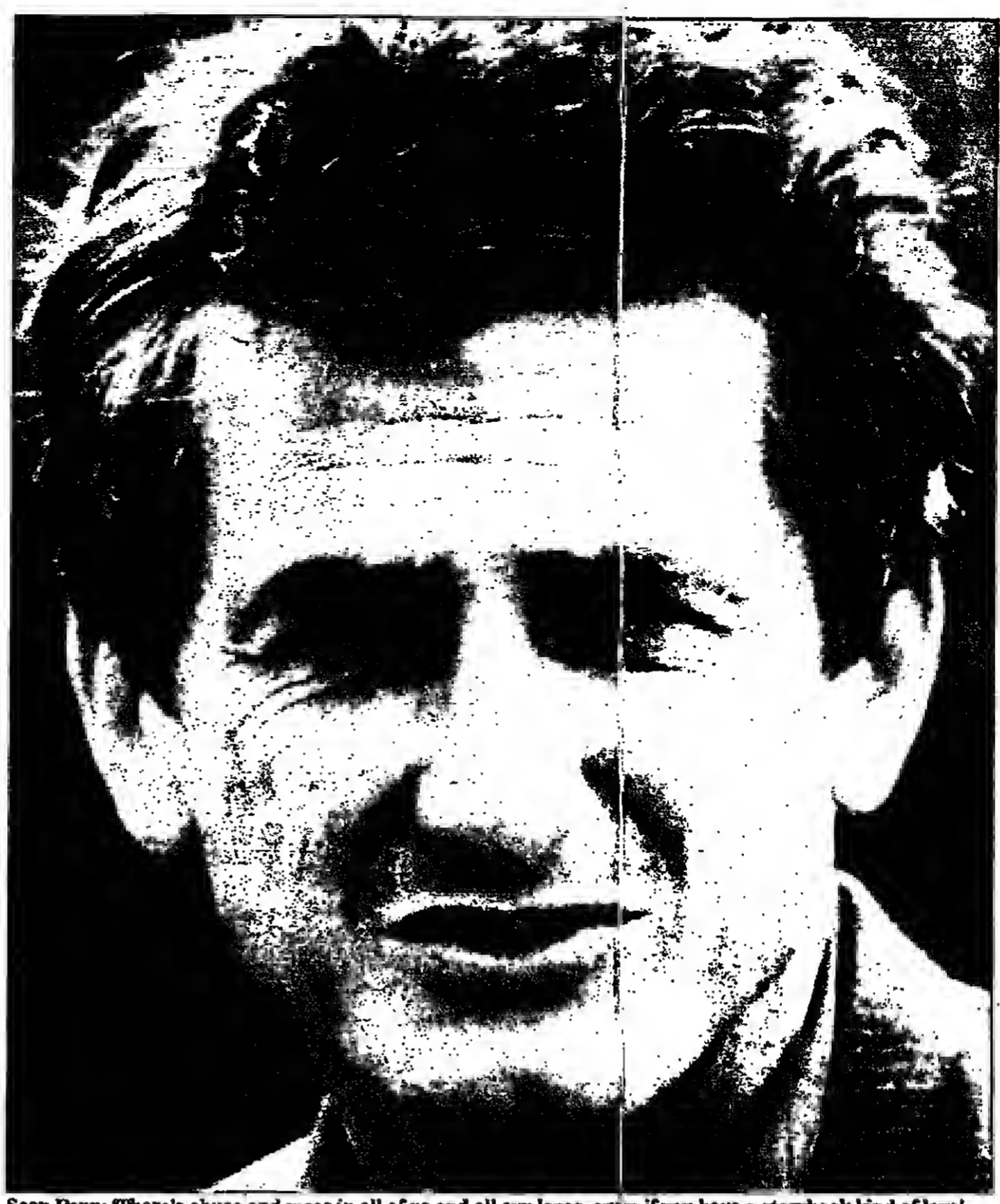
That cap seems hardly to fit. Penn is reputed to have done the part for only \$300,000 (well below what he could command) and possibly some profits. He pointed out to Fox that the price of the jet represented only "one hair on Mr Rupert Murdoch's formidable ass".

But to be fair, he can err on the side of painful. In the Eighties, when he was married to Madonna, he used to beat up journalists and, less forgivably, extras. When Penn's Malibu house burnt down in 1993 he set up home in a 27ft Airstream trailer with a few guns ("fun things"), and photos of Hemingway and Charles Bukowski. But the rebel lifestyle seems to be fading. After a long off/on relationship with the actress Robin Wright, they have a stable marriage with two children heading for its third year, and a base in San Francisco with Penn's production company.

He's now polite and restrained in interview, literate if convoluted. He has a surprisingly vivid physical presence, with a teddy boy quiff of hair and intense blue eyes above the bulky nose. And the small, bitter mouth beneath the moustache smiles more readily than it used to. Is it fair to say he seems happier?

"It's always been there, it's just a question of recognising it. There was a time when I didn't realise what was making me sad and nauseous." He quickly turns the talk away from himself. His fight was always with "the fraudulent nature of popular optimism", as exemplified in the Hollywood movie.

His kind of movies are quite different. One of the first we'll see is *Loved*, a delicate, harrowing piece starring his wife, and written and directed by her friend Erin Dig-



Sean Penn: 'There's abuse and mess in all of us and all our loves, even if you have a storybook kind of love'

The *New York Times*, the film proposes that "the war between men and women is only an offshoot of a larger and more deadly war: the one waged by men against themselves". (That could be Penn's epitaph.)

Hurlyburly is yet another film Penn made with his wife. "She has a kind of weight no one else that beautiful has. And

Are you going to say every Italian marriage has no love in it because the guy slapped her once?

"I don't approach it in that way. I'm not political within the film industry. I do the things that make sense to me and most films I see make no sense to me at all." Ask him to name one that does and he says Warren Beatty's *Bullworth*. Beatty says Penn doesn't really want to give up acting, he'd just "like to give up the thought of making the hand of picture that opens big on a Friday night". It's true that Penn first made that threat in 1991 and then went on to do *Carillo's Way* and *Dead Man Walking*, so you can't take it too seriously.

But Penn once said to me that the difference between directing and acting was "the difference between being a carpenter banging nails into a piece of wood, and being the piece of wood the nails are banged into".

"Where some actors have a craft, I have a set of works. An eyedropper with a needle on it, a spoon, and a rubber hose to tie off your arm. The first time you do heroin it's heaven but eventually you bottom out, and that's what happened to me." Didn't it satisfy him in any way? "Financially."

You can't believe that's the whole truth,

and today he'll admit it. "I slipped into a bloodbath - but there's not too many movies that in hindsight I'm not glad I did." He frowns. "But I'd rather be writing and directing. I am that cliché." After *Up at the Villa* (an adaptation of a Somerset Maugham story), and Woody Allen's new film (they got on badly), he's about to direct another of his own projects: a road trip reputedly starring Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder. Meanwhile, as an actor he has had the part of a lifetime in *The Thin Red Line*.

Penn wouldn't - and this has been held up as an example of his cussedness - discuss the film before he'd seen it, but he is extraordinary as Sergeant Welsh, the cynical backbone to a group of army grunts bonding during the Battle of Guadalcanal. His face alone is surely Oscar-worthy: all the weight of the world on his hooded eyes. It's not just Malick's visual lyricism. At 38, Penn finally is growing into his cranky looks. Perhaps growing into a lot of other things, too.

The Thin Red Line and *Loved* both open on 26 February

VIDEO WATCH



Armageddon (12)
available to rent
BRUCE WILLIS and his band of oil drillers set about the destruction of an enormous earth-bound meteor, but don't move to the edge of your seat just yet. Michael Bay's gaudy, exhausting actioner trades in suspense for cartoon guffaws very early on. And the hokier it gets, the more you're prepared to forgive it. The CGI meteor storms are far too convincing. Much better is the design of the meteor itself which the *Blue Peter* team might have been responsible for.

The crew are one-dimensional, even by Hollywood standards. And the testosterone leaks into the film's deliriously stupid subplot. Willis's character can't face up to the burgeoning sexuality of his daughter, Liv Tyler. How does the screenplay resolve this? It has him shove his big drill down the biggest female on screen, the meteor herself. Boys, as Freud once quipped, will be boys.

Walkabout (12)
available to buy £9.99
REMARKABLY THIS is the first time that Nic Roeg's masterpiece has been released on video and, nearly 30 years on, its Outback landscape looks more alien than ever. Their father having shot himself, schoolgirl Jenny Agutter and Lucien John, her little brother, wander from oasis to rocky outcrop. A young Aboriginal boy comes across them. He's on a walkabout, his ritual initiation into manhood, and it's the subsequent attention to adolescent sexuality, along with the striking photography, that stands up. Roeg's comparisons between sterile Western society and Aboriginal elemental existence, however, don't pack the same punch they did.

Metropolitan (PG)
available to buy £5.99
IN *METROPOLITAN* - the 1969 debut of director Whit Stillman - the action rarely strays from the pavements and drawing-rooms of Manhattan, but his literate, witty script populates both with young characters as complex and bright as they are gauche and self-deluding. Jane Austen, as repeated references to the writer make clear, is Stillman's touchstone, but he's not heavy-handed about it. His plain direction strikes a tone of razor-sharp yet affectionate satire, a deft balance the cast manage, too.

Blame Spielberg, not me

David Cronenberg's latest is typically extreme. But just look at the competition, he says. By Geoffrey Macnab



Cronenberg: being playful

"COMPARED WITH *Saving Private Ryan*, you think this is extreme?" This was director David Cronenberg's response to one squeamish journalist who suggested that *eXistenZ* (which had its world premiere in Berlin earlier this week) might be too much for US audiences to stomach.

Cronenberg had a point, really. Spielberg showed soldiers with their guts spilling out, and was praised for revealing war "as it really happened". Cronenberg does something similar and is immediately vilified.

eXistenZ starts from the premise that humans have evolved a new organic game which they can download into their nervous systems. Cronenberg pointed out that this is not as outlandish as it may seem: whether by tattoos or by piercing, even the earliest societies attempted to change their bodies.

Despite some macabre imagery - for instance, a gun made out of human bones which uses teeth for bullets - and much showing of strange objects into orifices - *eXistenZ* is unlikely to provoke anything

like the controversy that *Crash* did. This is Cronenberg at his most playful. Neither the audience nor the characters in the film know where reality ends and the game begins. They can take the movie on an existential level ("You're born into a world whose rules you do not know," Cronenberg proclaimed during Tuesday's press conference), or simply enjoy it as a surreal comedy in the vein of David Fincher's *The Game*.

With its air of distorted reality, *eXistenZ* is a remarkably apt film to be showing at the

Berlin Film Festival. The two-week-long event has witnessed a bizarre collision between Hollywood hype and self-conscious European artistry. This year, the lines have been blurred by a series of Hollywood movies that are more radical and inventive than their European counterparts.

Prime among these is Alan Rudolph's wildly inventive adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's satirical novel *Breakfast of Champions*. Bruce Willis, who financed the film, is a long-time fan of the book: "It reflects a lot of the lunacy which exists in the States."

Despite being one of Hollywood's highest-paid stars, Willis claims not to be "that challenged by the larger budget films I do... It's only in the independent field that actors are really allowed to act". Hence his decision to play a character as unbig as Dwayne Hoover, Midland City's car salesman extraordinaire. Somehow, you just don't expect to see Willis as a neurotic, middle-aged man on the edge of a nervous breakdown, but his performance is a revelation.

Nick Nolte is equally striking as Hoover's assistant, a strapping businessman who likes to dress in slinky red lingerie and high heels in his spare time. Nolte was allowed to design his own dress for the film. Accepting that he was flat-chested ("and I didn't want to get silicone implants"), Nolte went for the "Phoenician" look by wearing the dress back to front. "My line

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Working round the clock

Today's employees are having to adapt as the 24-hour society draws nearer. By Lynne Butt

If you turned the midnight oil at university and produced your most brilliant essays in the middle of the night, you may just have a head start in the big, wide world. After all, emphasises the sociologist Michael Wilmott, of the Future Foundation, the 24-hour society has arrived.

"There are 1 million people at work at any time between 9pm and 1am in the UK, and this figure is likely to double in the next 10 years," he explains. "There seems to be no problem in recruiting staff for night working and there are huge opportunities here. It's all part of the push for excellence in customer service, and that means involving many more people - including graduates."

Imagine it. We'll be able to add such activities as divorce-filing and house-buying to the telebanking, open-all-hours supermarkets, all-night bars and late-night gyms that we are currently privileged to enjoy. Already, a staggering 30 per cent more people watch television between 3am and 6am than did so a mere four years ago, and the number of telephone calls made in the wee hours has quadrupled in the last 10 years.

Increased globalisation is removing time barriers, says Wilmott, the major consequence of which is that there are fewer limits on when we can do the most mundane things. "It's all part of the movement away from a manufacturing based society to one that is service-based," he says.

Particularly prominent is the growth in activity from 6pm to midnight, reflected chiefly in later hours of business for bars and shops. But, predict experts, the peak is likely to shift later. Russell Craig, of Tesco, says: "Our aim is to have a 24-hour store in every major urban area. The number of people shopping at 3am will never be the same as it is at 3pm, but there is a definite demand."

Sarah White, a psychologist, believes that for employees of the future the benefits will be enormous. "If there are no limits to the beginning and end of the day, people will have the option of spreading out their workload. You won't have to think, 'Damn, it's nearly 5pm and I still have 18 phone calls to make.' In turn, people will probably be less stressed. And when you consider that stress is the major cause of people taking time off work, this couldn't be better news for employers."

In addition, she claims, it will finally provide natural night-owls with a chance to work at their best. "The fact is that many people work better in the early hours but, until recently, most of them had to compromise that characteristic."

But, as anyone who has suffered jet-lag knows, up-ending our natural circadian rhythm - or body clock - can play havoc with sleep patterns. And experts claim that typical student solutions - using ear plugs to



The night-owl's habitat: more people are working outside the nine-to-five norm. Paulo Macarico

sleep during the day, taking Pro-Plus to stay alert for the night - can become detrimental over time. In fact, studies of shift workers, including nursing and factory work, reveal that they are more likely than their day-working counterparts to fall sick, to suffer from digestive and back complaints, to have problems with personal relationships and to have less and poorer quality sleep.

Alex McKie of the Henley Centre, which has just produced a report on the future of work - claims that a 24-hour lifestyle will ultimately mean shift work.

Dr Elfed Morgan, of Birmingham University, who is currently conducting research into the effects of shift work, says that people considering working through the night should first determine whether they are larks or owls. Contrary to popular opinion, he claims, this characteristic is not usually changeable, not least because it is inherited to some extent. "There is evidence that larks - or morning people - fare less well on night shifts," he explains.

Coincidentally, Dr Morgan's daughter Tabitha recently worked her first night shift in a BBC newsroom, and is quick to admit that she was not looking forward to the experience. "I'd heard horror stories from those who hate them," she explains, adding: "I didn't feel so much tired as rather detached during the small hours. And it was very odd going home to bed as everyone else arrived for work."

when you are exhausted. Problem-solving skills are diminished and everything seems just that much more difficult."

John Escolme is a broadcaster who has done his share of overnight shifts as well as earlies and lates. "I find I crave food, but never know which meal to eat at 3am, so I often end up eating four times a day while on shifts," he says. Fortunately, however, he can nap anywhere at any time, and finds it easy to adjust to regular shifts. "Rotating ones are the killer - you never know where you are. It's impossible socially, and you end up feeling depressed and unwell."

Indeed, research reveals that the rotating shift causes the most havoc of all working patterns - even to night-owls. Taking brief rest periods may help to overcome this, and some people - such as Tabitha Morgan - resort to taking sleeping pills to get a good day's sleep.

But there are other methods. Since our circadian rhythm basically responds to light, some shift workers are now buying light boxes to zap themselves with an energising boost before they start a shift. Others are trying out doses of synthetically produced melatonin, the natural chemical that is normally produced by the brain at night when we are sleeping.

However, Caroline Lee, who joined Brann Telemarketing last October, is one of a growing number of people who are completely unfazed by the prospect of shift work. She is one of six on Brann's graduate training scheme in Bristol and believes that night work is a natural progression because today's graduates are used to working longer hours than ever before. "If you apply to a 24-hour telemarketing company, you know what is expected of you," she says. "I'm used to working long hours, and you just fit your life around the job."

Lee is convinced that people of her age group will make the 24-hour society flourish. "I think I can speak for all of us on this course - we are totally committed and keen to get on and we don't see shift work as a problem, just part of the job."

The Future Foundation agrees it is younger and more affluent people who want more flexible hours of service, and says that this group is often a good indicator of future mainstream developments.

Research also shows that women may be better at coping with night shifts than men - which may, arguably, have some link with the maternal instinct. Many women say that once they have had a baby and experienced broken nights, they are permanently "listening out", even when asleep.

So if you are not only a night-owl, but also female, you may have more chance than ever of being ahead of a game that - in less than a decade - will become the norm.

A-Z OF EMPLOYERS

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Age: Eight

History: Following the privatisation of the UK's state-owned electricity supply industry in 1991, National Power was formed. Today, it is one of the world's leading independently owned power-generating companies. From its UK base, it has the capacity to supply electricity to some 36 million people. Currently, National Power is focusing on expanding its international business, thereby providing opportunities for placements abroad - although you have to be with the company for 24 months to be in the running. Typically, these placements are offered to staff in operations and engineering.

Address: Headquarters are on the outskirts of Swindon in Wiltshire. National Power also develops, invests in, owns,

operates and maintains a diverse range of generating stations across England and Wales and worldwide.

Easy to get into? Last year, 41 graduates were recruited from 2,500 applicants. This year there are expected to be 40. You typically have to have a 2.1 honours degree to be considered. For operational/engineering positions, you'll have an engineering/science-based background; for commercial opportunities, you'll normally have a science/numerical/business background. For everything else, having good grades is more important than the content of your degree. Initiative as well as interpersonal, analytical and leadership skills are also



operates and maintains a diverse range of generating stations across England and Wales and worldwide.

Ambience: "You'll be working in an ever-changing environment," remarks a spokesperson.

In Swindon, offices are open-plan, and throughout the power stations there is an expectation that staff are familiar with all operational activity - which inevitably increases sociability. There are only a few organisational layers, so career development emphasises skills rather than hierarchical development. Teamwork, commitment and support are rated highly.

Vital statistics: Annual turnover is in the region of £3bn. Some 4,500 staff are currently employed, with graduates being recruited in areas of engineering and operations, commercial, information technology, human resources and finance.

Lifestyle: You are encouraged to be vibrant and enthusiastic, not least because there are plenty of

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Who's the boss? Keith Henry is chief executive, with John Collins as chairman.

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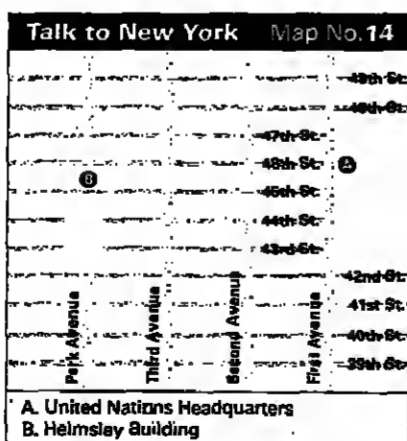
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THE INDEPENDENT

Still temping after all these years

HELP DESK

YOUR CAREER PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THE EXPERTS

The problem
I have reached the age of 30 without settling into a career or finding my vocation. It is making me feel very insecure and is eating my confidence away. I graduated eight years ago with a degree in German, after which I spent two years jobbing in Berlin. Although it was enjoyable, I felt pressured to return to England and train for a "proper" career as a bilingual secretary (NVQ IV). I then worked for an Austrian firm for a year in London, but left because I was treated like a slave. For the next two years, I temped, but because I needed more of a challenge, I applied for teacher training (PGCE) and secured a place at university. Six weeks later, I realised I wasn't committed enough and left.

I'm now back in temping, but find secretarial work demeaning and only do it for the money. Ideally, I'd like to find a career where I can utilise my French and German, but how can I break out of the cycle of temping and decide on a job or career or training that really suits me?

MARY WESTCOTT-YOUNG, BEDFORDSHIRE

The solutions
Roy Harrison, training and development policy advisor,

Institute of Personnel and Development, says:
We all make the wrong career choices from time to time because you can never quite know what you are getting into until you have tried it. The current nature of work and the job market makes the task even more difficult. Dominic Cadbury recently concluded that career paths have disappeared and we are left with crazy paving which we have to lay ourselves! Take a step back and ask yourself what you really enjoy doing and what you think you are good at. Then you can address the question "who would be prepared to pay me to do it?"

You could go back to the Careers Advisory Service at your old university since they increasingly provide for the needs of graduates in your situation. Alternatively, spend some money with a firm of career consultants. Be aware, however, that the field of adult careers guidance is currently unregulated. IPD does not recommend any particular firms, but we do have a register of guidance firms who have signed up to the Institute's code of practice in this area.

Paul Roscorla, occupational psychologist, Acker Deboeck, says:
Compared to most people, you have little reason to feel desperate. Your qualifications suggest you are

bright, and as Europe inevitably comes together, language skills will become ever more valuable. In addition, you are young which means you have time and opportunity to sort this out. In my experience, few people have a Road to Damascus revelation that shows them what they should do. It comes through persistence, resilience and having the right attitude.

Secretaries and PAs are not slaves per se, but some people treat them that way. Whatever your role, my motto is leave if people treat you badly. All approaches to career guidance centre on isolating what people are interested in and what they are good at. You can do this for yourself and ask your friends for their views. I recommend Clive Fletcher's book *Get that Job!* Having got together some ideas, make a plan and act positively. For what it's worth I'm optimistic for you - you have talents.

Celia Nicholson, managing consultant, Sanders & Sidney, Specialists in Career Counselling (01908 222 622), says:
You have obviously gained an enormous amount of experience working in different companies and countries and this will certainly have a value in your future job search. Don't be too quick to dismiss that. Identify the elements

of some of your most recent jobs and decide which parts you liked most. Was it using your languages, working with people, organising things or working to the pressure of deadlines? Then try to identify the types of companies where you had the best time. You clearly have a natural talent for languages and travel. Have you considered the travel and tourism industries? While these are very competitive fields, you may be able to find an organisation where you can build on your current strengths and gain additional skills through part-time or short courses. In this way you gradually move into a new field rather than making a dramatic change.

But the most important thing right now is to give yourself credit for the successes and achievements that you have made in your life so far. If you see yourself in a positive light you will find that other people will respond very differently towards you.

INTERVIEWS BY
CARMEN MIDDLEDITCH

If you have a work problem and want expert advice, write to Carmen Middleditch, Fast Track, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2068; e-mail: c.middleditch@independent.co.uk

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In search of asylum: the new Immigration and Asylum Bill has serious implications for refugees, such as these entering Britain from eastern Europe Bill Graham

It's firm, but is it fair?

The Government may be making life harder for genuine asylum-seekers. By Rachel Halliburton

The new Immigration and Asylum Bill will raise the suicide rate among asylum-seekers. Over the last two weeks, leading lawyers from the Immigration Law Practitioners Association have also predicted that the Government's proposals will dump victims of torture in areas of the country that cannot cater to their needs, will penalise women who have been abused, and will strand children in schools that are unable to cope with their learning disabilities.

The Bill promises to speed up an application process that has already been choked by Home Office computer problems, faulty telephone lines and the disorganised moving of applicants' files from one building to another - one lawyer has even been moved to ask whether civil servants do have a sense of irony, as the Bill's subtitle is "fairer, faster and firmer".

Jawad Luqmani, a solicitor at Lugmani Thompson & Partners, describes the Bill as an attempt to set up a system whereby "even genuine asylum applicants will have to swim against the tide in order to survive".

The proposals have come at a time when local authorities have groaned under the financial burden of dealing with destitute refugees. Just over 46,000 people made applications for asylum last year, significantly more than the 32,000 put forward in 1997.

The two most significant moves in the Home Secretary Jack Straw's plans to deter economic migrants and bogus refugees are, first, the re-

placement of cash benefits by shop tokens and, second, the plans to remove the financial burden from London and the South-east by sending asylum applicants to "reception zones" all over the country. The welfare of the taxpayer has been seen as driving these proposals, but the lawyers who will have to deal with the new system argue that Mr Straw has come up with a plan that will not only end up costing more to the taxpayer, but will also severely disadvantage genuine asylum-seekers.

Instead of deterring opportunists, says Jane Coker, a solicitor, "the system they are setting up is inevitably

Yugoslavia, 10 per cent from Somalia and 8 per cent from Sri Lanka.

When the Bill was published, Mr Straw said that he was aware that specialised benefits would be needed for certain asylum-seekers. But Christopher Randall, a solicitor at the law firm Winstanley-Burgess, argues that moving people away from London, where there are established and sophisticated facilities designed to identify and help genuine victims, means that "people are going to be stuck, as victims of torture, with hundreds of miles to go for help. These are very damaged people in difficult situations - I'm sure the suicide rate will go up."

While lawyers have generally welcomed the modernisation of the appeal system, which includes the right of appeal for anyone who claims that an immigration decision breaches the European Convention of Human

rights, this is not the main emphasis of the Home Office proposals. By setting a six-month target for dealing with asylum applications, the Home Secretary has promised an end to time-wasting cases. The Home Office gives a case study showing how an individual came to England as a student in 1985 and spent almost three years launching repeated appeals until he was deported from the country earlier this month. The Bill would replace the current multiple rights of appeal with one single right.

Unfortunately, this promise has coincided with problems with the computer and telephone system at the Immigration and Nationality Direct-

orate, to bring application processing to a near standstill. A National Audit report due to be released on 24 March is expected to be damning. The Immigration minister, Mike O'Brien, has explained that the hold-ups are simply the result of a "massive modernisation programme" to produce "significant long-term improvements".

Another problem, says Mr Randall, is that "at the moment, most people who overstay, or who breach their conditions of stay in some way, will have an appeal before they are deported. What the Bill does is to sweep away all those appeals - unless they claim asylum. If you get caught, you are on the plane."

For the broader group who will still get an appeal, one-stop appeals could be defensible if they were truly comprehensive. But a large group of people will not have any appeal, or will have an appeal where they can't raise the important issues.

The consensus from the lawyers who will have to work under the new system is that it is to be hoped that the initial modernisation of the asylum process will not be as chaotic as the modernisation of the Home Office's computer system.

But by trying to solve the problems as the Bill proposes, the Government has also exposed itself to fiercer criticism. Mr Randall describes the solution as "an apartheid system. This is an extraordinary package brought by New Labour for the late 20th century. It will come as a substantial disappointment to many who voted for them, and many who were consulted by them."

Costs rise, but quality does not

Despite its defeat in the Lords, Lord Irvine defends his proposal

CRIMINAL LEGAL aid is a classic demand-led system. How much it costs the taxpayer depends on how many people find themselves either in police stations under suspicion, or in court facing charges. Last year, criminal legal aid cost the taxpayer £733m. In five years, costs have gone up by more than 40 per cent, but the number of cases dealt with has risen by only 10 per cent.

Rising costs are not matched by any evidence of improved services to defendants or value for money for the taxpayer. And every penny spent on criminal legal aid is a penny out of my budget that cannot be spent on civil legal aid - helping people to protect or assert their rights.

People defended against criminal charges at public expense must be represented by high-quality lawyers, whether in the police station or in court. At present, any formally qualified lawyer can do criminal legal aid work and send in their bill - this is no guarantee of quality service for people accused of crimes, and no way to make sure the taxpayer gets value for money.

There is no universal high quality among those who defend in our magistrates' courts or Crown Courts. People who are charged with criminal offences can and do find themselves with a weak defence counsel up against strong prosecuting counsel.

In all areas of legal aid, I am determined that the Government is active in securing quality services for people who need them - but bluntly providing good lawyers - rather than simply reactive in paying any lawyer's bills for whatever sort of work is done. But I must aim to deliver quality and economy together, within a controlled criminal legal aid budget.

The new Legal Services Commission, proposed in my Access to Justice Bill, will organise the Criminal Defence Service largely by contracting with quality-assured lawyers in private practice.

This does not negate the principle that a defendant should be able to choose his/her own lawyer. All that will change is that the lawyers will be quality-assured and will have a contract with the Criminal Defence Service. Fixed price contracts will be an incentive to efficiency. Competition for contracts will maintain quality of service and provide value for money.

While most criminal defence work will be done by lawyers in private practice working under contract, I believe the Criminal Defence Service should also be able to use directly employed lawyers, or salaried defenders. But let me say plainly that the Government has no plans to move towards a wholesale salaried public defender system to replace private practitioners.

Nor is it part of my plans that any services provided by salaried defenders should be in any way second-rate compared

with contracted lawyers in private practice. Just the opposite. Where salaried defenders might begin is by plugging gaps in defence services by lawyers in private practice. In this way, the cost and quality of salaried defenders could be compared with their private sector counterparts.

The prospect of even a small number of salaried defenders has met with special pleading by vested interests. It is claimed that a state-paid salary and independence in defending are incompatible, or that there will be unhealthy collusion developing between salaried defenders and those lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Barristers in private practice claim too much for themselves when they ask people to believe that only they can be honourably independent defenders. The judges are employed by the state; their independence is beyond question. Prosecuting counsel are members of the independent Bar and yet they are



The Lord Chancellor: 'Quality and economy'

instructed and paid, case by case, through the Crown Prosecution Service. Do they lack independence of mind because their livelihood comes from a single, state source?

How can they be seen as being at less risk of pressure or inducement than an employed lawyer with job protection and a steady salary?

The Access to Justice Bill currently going through Parliament will give all advocates statutory protection of their overriding duty to the court and to the interest of justice in accordance with their professional rules of conduct.

My proposals for the Criminal Defence Service are practical and contain incremental changes to the way people are defended at public expense. We will continue to proceed with piloting schemes and consultation. We will rely on contracted, high-grade lawyers in private practice.

Salaried defenders are no threat to the independence of lawyers or the rights of defendants. But they are the way towards guaranteeing good quality, publicly funded criminal defence services, provided by lawyers whose fundamental duties are to their clients and the court, and at a price the taxpayer can afford.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 96 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at 11 Baker Street, London W1M 1HA on 24 February 1999 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 94, 110 and 111 of the said Act.

Raymond Hocking and Malcolm Cohen of 8001 Shaw Hayward, 5 Baker Street, London W1M 1HA, are qualified in act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above and will furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required.
Dated: 5 February 1999
By Order of the Liquidator
Maria Kelly
Director

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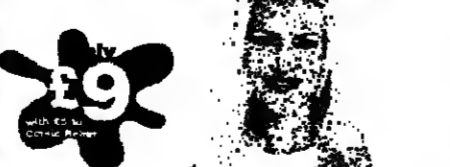
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A legal way to land a million

Lawyers can earn a fortune. But are they worth it? By Robert Verkaik

ARE THE very best corporate lawyers worth £1m a year? It's a question that managing partners of leading law firms have been asking themselves after a US firm advertised for English lawyers, offering them £1m salaries.

Anthony Tomkins, founding partner of legal recruitment consultancy Charles Fellowes, says that one managing partner of a City and regional law firm recently complained to him that since the advertisement appeared, his job had been made more difficult.

The idea that a firm - rumoured to be the second-tier Chicago outfit McDermott Will & Emery - is prepared to pay salaries at the very highest level in London has served only to stoke up professional jealousies.

"Some lawyers in the top law

firms," says Tomkins, "are earning £500,000 upwards and they are quite happy. But the lawyers in the regional firms, on say, £250,000, will wonder how close they are getting to that magic £1m figure."

And Peter Scott, managing partner of Eversheds, which has the largest number of lawyers in England and Wales, concedes that the advertisement and the media hype have brought the topic of money on to the top of the agenda.

"It is fairly common ground among most City law firms that the US law firms are putting pressure on remuneration," he says.

Lesley MacDonagh, managing partner of Lovell White Durrant, says that law firms have to be aware of changes in pay structure, but she also questions the real significance

behind the kinds of sum being advertised. She suggests that, taking everything into account, the £1m lure may be "illusory".

Typically, a large starting salary would be conditional, and open to renegotiation after two or three years. Crucially, the US law firm will need evidence that the partner is able to bill three or four times his or her salary - in this case £3m to £4m. And Mrs MacDonagh says: "Most real stars are not seduced by the headline starting rates. Other aspects of life at a firm will weigh heavily in deciding to stay or go."

She cites firm loyalty, strong client relationships and a partner's control over his or her working and personal destiny as key issues.

Allen agrees that such lures will not necessarily tempt the "rain-makers" from the top

City law firms. Although they may be on a few hundred thousand less than the £1m mark, the extra cash will not be regarded as a worthwhile trade-off against their "relatively comfortable" lives.

The question still remains: is any lawyer worth £1m?

Mr Tomkins says: "If I put my hand on my heart, I would have to say 'no' - a surgeon saves lives, but the market does not work like that."

Mr Scott's view is: "We live in a capitalist country, not a managed economy, so you really have to ask the client if he thinks that the lawyer adds value to the business."

But Mr Allen, an English lawyer working in a US firm, describes £1m as "silly money" for a lawyer. "Let's face it, for all the great good we do in the world, we are overpaid."

THEATRE
WEST END

LAST CALL



ABEUS David Suchet stars in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed *Old Vic The Cui* SE1 (C)



-369 1736/cc 867 111
Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm.

CLASSICAL EVENTS

DDY Musical biog-show

Tonight 7.30pm. EC52 012-632. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891)
Moorgate/Barbican.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Bach Choro/Hill Russian settings performed by the Russian Chamber Orchestra. Tonight 7.30pm. EC-630. South Bank, SE1 (0171-260 4242)
BR/ Waterloo.

WIGMORE HALL Budapest Wind Ensemble Selection of 18th century music performed tonight, 7.30pm. E7-E14, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) Bond Street/Oxford Circus.

INTERNATIONAL WITNESS FOR WAR
 A new exhibition will bring celebration of the relationship between art and animation, with screenings of contemporary and classic animation, debates and special appearances by the animators. **0171-930 3647** Charing Cross, ends 18 Feb, phone for details.

CROMWELL: WARTS AND ALL
EXHIBITION The museum's collection of Cromwell memorabilia, the largest in the country, explores the controversy still surrounding this controversial and polarising English history. **Museum of London London Wall EC4 (0171-600 3699)**

...son star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women.

OPERA

LONDON
ROYAL ALBERT HALL *Tosca* In-the-road staging of Puccini's opera directed by David Freeman, tonight 7.30pm, £15-50-£38.50, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) @ High Street Kensington.

MUSIC
POP

BOURNEMOUTH
SUZU QUINTAO, ALVIN STARDUST, THE RUBBETTES Marathon triple-header

COPENHAGEN New drama film about the discovery of the atomic bomb. Duchovny, Galtsoff

LONDON
SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEACOCK THEATRE, 177, Fenchurch Lane, London EC3A 3DF. Fenamex Presents La Musa Gitana World class flamenco dance, song and guitar. Tue-Sat 8pm, mar Sat, Sun 9pm, ends 7 Mar. £7, 50-£27.50. Portugal Street, WC2H 1HT-863 8222) @ Holborn/Temple.

NORWICH
THEATRE ROYAL St Petersburg Ballet: The Nutcracker Postcard Ballet from the Russian capital. Fri. Tonight 7.30pm. £4.50-£23. Theatre Street (01603-630000)

NEWCASTLE
1978 British and Irish Commonwealth International Film Festival. Fri. 202-466456) Tonight 8pm, 11-£15.

CANTERBURY
NINE BELOW ZERO High-energy Rhythmic Blues outfit. Penny Theatre, Northgate, Canterbury (0227 70512) Tonight 8pm. £6, concs £5.

LONDON
SARAH JORY Virtuoso lap-steel guitarist, now rising fast to the ranks of the UK country scene, plays the forthcoming album *Let's My Innuence*. The Borderline Mallette Street W1 (0171-734 2095) @

Adaptation featuring Jim E.
 Appets. London Apollo Hap

WINCHESTER
JOHN STRIFE THEATRICALS *Adzido 12*: The Spirit of Ochi Dance and drumming from throughout Africa inspired by the peacock's beauty. Tonight 7.30pm. £5.50, concs £3.50. King Alfred's College (01962-827492).

LONDON
NEW AGENA Four poets share their

Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 8.30pm. £6.

STEVE HOOKER RUMBLE Heavy rockably from the Essex badlands. 3.30's Rockin Blues, St Martin's Warehouse, Fri (0171-437 0523).
@ Oudon, Tonight 10pm. £7, £5 before 11pm.

JONATHAN RICHMAN The new wave pioneer, revitalised by his appearance in the film *There's Something About Mary*, returns to promote the new album, *I'm So Confused*. Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060).
@ Camden Town, Tonight 8pm. £10.

W1 (0171-494 5045)
rc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm.

work Charles Lewthwaite, Elizabeth Cook, Emily Crawford and Keith Jones. Lauderdale House Waterloer Park, Highgate Hill NSW J0181-348 8716) ♦ Archway, Tonight 8pm, E4, cont E3.

ARCHETYPES IN LITERATURE - ADULTEROUS QUEENS Film, examination of the 'archetype' of the adulterous queen, examining the role of women in shifting images of Guinevere from 19th and 20th century culture. Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall South Kensington, London SE7 (0171-990 4242) BR/4-6pm, cont E3. Tonight 7.30pm, E4, cont E2, E5.

PHIL MARTIN Hardy gurdy virtuoso. Paradise Bar New Cross Road SE13 (0181-692 1530) ♦ New Cross Gate, Tonight 8pm, E4, cont E3.

SHIMMAL Songs from Turkey and the Mediterranean regions. The Split Commercial Street E1 (0171-392 9032) ♦ JBR, Liverpool Street. Tonight 8pm, E6, cont E4, E5.

SHERYL COW, RODDY FRAME With the Globe Sessions album having sold over 3 million, the first lady of US adult rock celebrates her re-union with her husband, producer, writer and Grammy nominated, Wembley Arena Empire Way, Wembley.

pm & 8pm. ends 26 Feb.
0.

COMEDY

CARDIFF
ALAN DAVIES IN URBAN TRAUMA AT ST DAVID'S HALL. The star of *Jonathan Creek* is on an evening of genial stand-up tonight 7.30pm. The prices (£122-876444) £13-£14.

GRAVESEND
CRAG CHARLES AT WOODVILLE HALL. The star of *Rad Diner* and *Robur Town* tonight 8pm. Midmill Street (01474-337458/60) £11.50, seats £10.

ANCON

[0181-902 0907] @ Wembley Park. Tonight 8pm, £17.50-£20.

WORKINGTON
WILKO JOHNSON BAND Southend R&B guitar maestro of *Red Fingergod* and *The Blockheads*. Inn on the Parade tonight 8pm. Parade 101903-235387) Tonight 8pm, £5.50.

MUSIC

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

BEDFORD

Mon-Sat 8pm. [5][7] 3pm. &

ED BYRNE AT THE TALK OF LONDON Whimsical brand of humour from the Perrier Award nominee. Tonight 8pm, Parker Street, off Broadway Lane, WC2 (01753 2414) Covent Garden. £10.

WINSTON

AL MURRAY THE PUB LANDLORD - LOTS OF FUN '99 AT ARTS CENTRE Expert character actor. Tonight 8pm, Denzies Road (01793-14837) £8 concs £7.

CLUBS

RACEY TRIO Influential British beat pianist. Royal Arms Castle Road. (01734-45762) Tonight 8pm. £5 concs £8.

LONDON

CAROLINE TAYLOR GROUP Drums-led quintet, after Harem Sisters. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) @ Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight, 10pm, £4.95.

GILAD ATZMON Hard blowing contemporary saxophonist. Bull's Head Lonsdale Road SW13 (0181-876 5241) BR. Barnes Bridge. Tonight 8pm, £4.

MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie
s whodunnit St Martin
net W/C3 10171 835 14A

RIGHTION
PHONIC HOOP at the ENVIKHA
jazz and break beat with guest
singer Love Lee. Tonight 10pm-2am,
S, 8, comes E2. Ship Street (01273-
284393)

OTTINGHAM
BREAKDOWN at the BOWS With
your Global, Goodfella, Johnny
Blat, J. Vintex and Cafe del Martini.
Tonight 10pm-2am, S4, comes E3.50.
Fridlesmith Gate (0115-950 6667)

NORMA WINSTONE/JOHN TAY-
lor Live! Typical 1970s ambient jazz
and piano duo. Pizzazz Express
Jazz Club Dept. (0115-950 41-
439 8722) @ Tottenham Court
Road, Tonight 9pm, E12.50.

FLORA PURNIM/ANTO MOREIRA
Long running Latin fusion team,
support from trombonist Mark
Nightingale. Ronnie Scott's Fifth
Street W1 (0171-439 0747). @
Greiner Square. Tonight 9.30pm,
E15, mens E18 (Mon-Thu); E20,
mens E8 (Fri-Sat).

Last Call
ADAPTED FOR the stage from Victoria Wood's TV drama, Pat and Margaret focuses on the life and loves of two northern sisters, characters originally played by Julie Walters and Wood herself. Pat (Christine Mackie) is the star of an American soap, has three horses, a pool and a convertible. Margaret (Christine Moore) lives in a bedsit and works in a motorway café. This poignant play explores the lives of two very different women.
Octagon Theatre, Howell Craft, South, Bolton
(01204 320681) to 20 Feb

CLASSICAL

CLASSICAL EVENTS

LONDON
ROYAL ALBERT HALL Tosca In-the-round staging of Puccini's opera directed by David Freeman. Tonight 7.30pm. £13.50-£39.50. Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) @thinkgreat.kensington

LONDON
SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEACOCK THEATRE *Paco Pena Flamenco Presents La Musa Gitana*
 World class flamenco dance, song and guitar. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, Sun 3pm. *enrte*. T. Mar. F7.50-E27.50.

CANTERBURY
NINE BELOW ZERO *High-energy Rhythm'n'Blues outfit. Penny Theatre*
enrte Northgate (01222-470512)

Ballet: The Nutcracker Post-Christmas ballet tour for all the family. Tonight 7.30pm. £4.50-£23. Theatre Street (01603-630000)

WINCHESTER

JOHN STRIDE Theatre Addico 12: *Don Juan*, *CM*, *Chin*, *Prosa*, and

LITERATURE

LONDON
NEW AGENDA Four poets share their

PROTOTYPES IN LITERATURE -
ADULTEROUS QUEENS Fiona MacCarthy, acclaimed biographer, examines shifting images of Guinevere in 9th and 20th century culture. Voice 30, Royal Festival Hall (A74) Bank SE1, 0171-960 6742) BR/£

WORTHING
WILKO JOHNSON BAND Southern
R&B guitar maestro of Dr Feelgood
and The Blockheads. Inn on the
Prom Marine Parade 101903-
235387 Tonight 8pm, £5.50.

LONDON
D BYRNE AT THE TALK OF LONDON
 Whimsical brand of humour from the Perrier Award nominee. Tonight 8pm, Parker Street, off

BEDFORD
STAN TRACEY YRIO Influential British bebop pianist. Gordon Arms Castle Road (01234-406762) Tonight 8pm, £9, concs £8.

CLUBS

FLORA PURIM/AIRTO MOREIRA
Long running Latin fusion team, support from trombonist Mark Nightingale. Ronnie Scott's Fifth Street W1 (0171-439 0747). @

[illegible]

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST

MISERABLES Musical
version of Victor Hugo's mas-
trophe Palace Shaftesbury Avenue.
71-4344 (9509) ♦ PKCC Cir-
c. 7.30pm. (5) (7) 2.30pm.
195 mins.

performs her own acclaimed
Broadway hit. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat
& Sun 3.30pm, ends 6 Mar. £12

ANGEL Angelina
S's woodsmint. St. Martin's
reet. WC2 (0171-836 1443)
8pm. (3)
[7] 5pm, £10-£24.50. 135

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

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Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Fri. 8pm
9pm, mats Thur 2.30pm, Sat
ends 6 Mar. £3-£19, concs ava

(Continued)

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THURSDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Mark Goodier.
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark
Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45
Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00
Steve Lamacq. 10.00 Trade Update.
10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Andy Ker-
shaw. 2.00 Cive Warren. 4.00 -
6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wogan.
9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Richard Lit-
tlejohn. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05
Johnnie Walker. 7.00 David Allan.
8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Punt and
Dennis: It's Been a Bad Week. 9.30
Comedy Showcase: Takeaway.
10.00 Melly Talks Jazz. 10.30
Richard Ainsworth. 12.00 Katrina
Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Dvo-
rak.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.9MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.
9.30 Q & A. See Pick of the Day.
9.45 Satel. Planet of the Blind.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: From Our Own Cor-
respondent.
11.30 Fat Chance.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Open Country.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Walstead.
3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours.
3.00 TV 010 0444.

PICK OF THE DAY

ONCE THIS question "Will I live forever?" was seen as fanciful. With medical advances raising the average life expectancy, however, it's now a topic of debate deemed respectable enough to launch a new science series, Q & A (9.30am R4).

The poet WH Auden (right) enjoyed greater success as a librettist than he did as a playwright. As well as supplying

the words for *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky, he and his partner, Chester Kallman, worked on Henze's chamber opera, *Elegy for Young Lovers*, about a tyrannical poet who attaches greater importance to art than life. In Performance on 3 (7.30pm R3), the part is sung by Quentin Hayes. Markus Stenz conducts the London Sinfonietta.

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



forietta/Markus Stenz. See Pick of the Day.

10.35 Postscript. Peggy Reynolds unravels the dramatic, musical and emotional impact of a favourite operatic aria. Tonight, singers Thomas Allen, Robert Lloyd and Richard Van Allen and director Claire Venable fol-

low Don Giovanni's passage to hell in the electrifying trio for basses at the end of Mozart's darkest opera.

10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen talks to sculptor Richard Deacon about his major new exhibition 'New World Order' and about his abiding interest in language and its meaning in sculpture. Since winning the Turner Prize in 1987, Deacon has continued to attract international acclaim. Plus a discussion of Paul Schrader's new film 'Affliction', based on a semi-autobiographical novel by Russell Banks.

12.00 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Telemann (R).

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4
(92.4-94.9MHz FM)
6.00 Today.

9.00 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time.
9.30 Q & A. See Pick of the Day.
9.45 Satel. Planet of the Blind.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: From Our Own Cor-respondent.

11.30 Fat Chance.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Open Country.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Walstead.
3.00 NEWS: Call You and Yours.
3.00 TV 010 0444.

3.30 Science in the Attic.
3.45 This Scropted tale.
4.00 NEWS: Law in Action.
4.30 The Material World.
5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Yes, Minister (R).
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.30 Front Row. John Wilson with the arts programme, including an investigation into the reputation of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. In light of a major new exhibition in Glasgow.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Rachel Atkins, Ian Peppercorn, Kelly Hunter and Sean Baker. Director Peter Leslie Wild (4/30).

8.00 NEWS: On Tap: A History of Drinking Water. In the first of three programmes, Mark Jenner explores the historical significance of water. 'Paying the Piper', the introduction of piped water revolutionised the lives of women who spent hours every day collecting water. But it also brought about the first water company monopolies and a change in attitude towards this staple of life.

8.30 The Week in Westminster. Boris Johnson of the Daily Telegraph takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster.

9.00 NEWS: Testbeds. Vanessa Collingridge explores the technologies that shape our lives.

9.30 Melvyn Bragg - In Our Time. Melvyn Bragg and guest discuss ideas and events which have influenced our time.

10.00 NEWS: The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain. Patrick Malahide reads Patrick O'Brian's novel following the fortunes of Captain Jack Aubrey and his friend Dr Stephen Maturin in the Royal Navy of Nelson's time. Capture by a French privateer (4/10).

11.00 NEWS: The Way It Is. Satire, sketches and a hard look behind the week's media events. Starring Simon Evans, Tracy-Anne Oberman, Dave Lamb and Chris Pavla.

11.30 A Good Read (R).
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: All Points North.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(98.1kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News: Shipping Forecast.
5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.
11.30 Today in Parliament. 11.45 - 12.00 Parliamentary Postcards.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 90.9kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.

7.30 On the Line. In-depth investigation of controversial sporting issues.
8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet and the team examine the issues that affect the sporting world.

9.00 Hoops. Fat Freddie M rounds up the latest news from the British basketball scene.

9.30 Sportsshop. Trixie Rawlinson presents the sports consumer programme, including sporting investigations and news of all the latest sporting gadgets.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Incl 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 8.00 Evening Concert: Bach: Tocata and Fugue in D minor, BWV565. Tom Koopman (organ). Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor. Maxim Vengerov. Leipzig Gewandhaus Or-chestra/Kurt Masur. Bzst. Au ford du temple saint. Thomas Hampson (baritone). Jerry Hadley (tenor). Welsh National Opera.

ORCHESTRA/Carlo Rizzi. Strauss: Also sprach Zarathustra. Bavarian RSO/Lorin Maazel. Ravel: Bolero. Montreal SO/Charles Dutoit. 12.00 Concerto: Ode to Joy. Westminster Choir and Philadelphia Orchestra/Riccardo Muti. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VRGIN RADIO
(1215, 107.1-107.9MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 8.30 Russ Williams. 10.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Geoff. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Mark Forster. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allan.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(98.1kHz LW)
1.00 World Today. 1.30 Westway. 1.45 Performance. 2.00 World Today. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 World Today (400-700).

TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Peter Deesley. 5.00 SportZone. 7.00 One to One with Andy Gray. 8.00 James White. 12.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

SERGEI FEDOROV won the 10th Goodricke Open in Calcutta on Tuesday at a canter, having already secured first place with a round to spare. His run of five straight wins ended on Monday in a draw with me, after I managed to trick him to gain some advantage but then stupidly lost two whole tempi and in annoyance proposed peace.

Dolmatov and Sorokin had already split the point, so this guaranteed him victory. In the last round Fedorov drew quickly to end on 9 1/2, well clear of Dolmatov, Sorokin and Ehivnet on 7 1/2; nine players, including me, finished with 7. The sponsors, the Goodricke tea company, will have been delighted by their 10th edition which not only saw uncompromising fighting chess but also gave rise to three or four depending on a technicality: four international master titles, a second IM norm for D.K. Sharma and, for the world girls' under-12 champion, Kaneru Humpy, her first women's international norm.

On Tuesday, I most unfairly gave Fedorov's only loss. Here, in recompense, are two of his eight wins.

White: Sergei Fedorov
Black: Narayanan Neelakanthan

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1 e4 e5 | 15 dxc6 Bxf3 |
| 2 f4 exf4 | 16 cxd6 Ng6 |
| 3 Nf3 Be7 | 17 Bxg6 Bxg6 |
| 4 Be4 Bb4+ | 18 Kxg2 fxe6 |
| 5 Kf1 d5 | 19 Qe7 Qg4+ |
| 6 exd5 Be7 | 20 Kf2 Rf6 |
| 7 d4 Bd6 | 21 Ne4 Qh4+ |
| 8 Bb3 Bg4 | 22 Kf1 Qh3+ |
| 9 e4 b6 | 23 Ke1 Rf7 |
| 10 Ne3 Ne7 | 24 Qe8+ Rf8 |
| 11 Be2 h6 | 25 Nf5+ gxf6 |
| 12 Qe1 0-0 | 26 Qxg6+ Kh8 |
| 13 Qh4 Qd7 | 27 Rg1 1-0 |
| 14 c5! bxc5 | |

In a queenless middlegame Fedorov got control after 18...Kf7 19...Bb3. Black should have tried 18...Bd3 19 axb3 exf4 to get e5 for his knight. If 36...Nc7 37 Re6! - mate threat - Nxe5 38 Rxe7 Rxe7 39 Bxc6 Rxf4 40 b4 should win. The rest was torture.

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

SIXTY-SIX PLAYERS signed up for the European Poker Championship last weekend at the Aviation Club in Paris - amazing, given that the entry fee was 30,000 francs, or just over £3,000 a head. First prize was £20,000 and a Cartier watch.

"All I can tell you is that our success here is due to hard work," beamed an elated Bruno Fitoussi, the club manager. "This kind of tournament surpasses anything you ever had in London. My plan is to develop a European final of poker on a par with the World Series in Las Vegas. I hope we can get 100 players next year."

Why not? Poker in Continental card clubs is on the up and up, with the year-long European Superbowl the next big event, at the Concord Card Casino in Vienna on 21 March. The festivities in Paris also attracted a good number of American players, none of whom got into the money in the final event.

The new European champion is Paul Testud, by profession a jeweller and by temperament a high-stakes player in private games. He discovered casino poker and tournament play only quite recently. He fought a long, fluctuating, very good-natured duel in the final with Pascal Perrault, a tournament

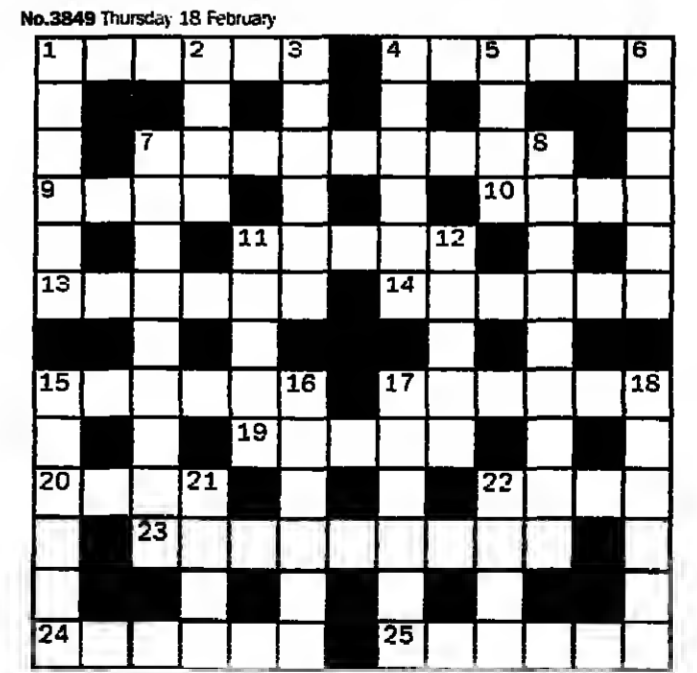
player par excellence, who manages to find time from running his pharmacies in Paris to tour the world's poker festivals.

Perrault was always in command, going all in - as the French say, *tapis* - again and again. But each time he had his opponent down to a handful of chips, Testud bounced back, grinning broadly. Eventually a dinner break was announced. Testud came back in and hit a pair of 10s against a straight draw to take a decisive lead for the first time.

"What did you drink at dinner?" I asked him and he was all over "Beau coup, beau coup!" (a lot), he grinned. By contrast Perrault, the loser, took only two glasses of red wine. Seems to be a moral there. It was all very French, with the finalists cracking little jokes between their chain-smoking. The new European champion may not be the best player around, but he gave a coastal impression of enjoying himself, win or lose. As a leading British player summed up the week: "Good games, good food, good drink". In the spirit of the occasion, Testud donated his Cartier watch to the dealers, as a prize for their own tournament.

d.spanier@netmatters.co.uk

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Church district (6)
2 Fires (6)
3 Downward inclination (9)
4 Wading bird (4)
5 Sunken fence (2-2)
6 Blend (5)
7 Boil gently (6)
8 Fourscore (6)
9 Crazy individual (6)
10 Human being (6)
11 Alcoholic drink (5)
12 Story (4)
13 Ruining event (4)
14 Teaching (9)
15 River (6)
16 Distant (6)

DOWN
1 Losses one's head (6)
2 Roman date (4)
3 Noose (6)
4 Wild (6)
5 Solemn word (4)
6 Income from employment (6)
7 Take apart (9)
8 Sailor (9)
9 Decoration (5)
10 Type of duck (5)
11 Church service (6)
12 Dance (6)
13 Annoy (6)
14 Sewing implement (6)
15 Rim (4)
16 Wander (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Disc, 2 Collared (Duck), 3 Canal, 4 Ewton, 11 Ace, 13 Gallian, 14 Insect, 15 Insign, 16 Harbored, 20 Ear, 22 Pageant, 23 Kebab, 25 Thrashed, 26 Want. DOWN: 1 Duck, 2 Sob, 3 Over, 4 Lining, 6 Re-climber, 7 Dietetic, 8 Flag, 12 Easy chair, 14 Inheret, 15 Confess, 17 Myrtle, 19 Duke, 21 Rebel, 23 Ben.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE PLOT OF Addicted to (8.30pm Sky Premier) is featherweight, but this satellite premiere makes for an enjoyably undemanding 100 minutes all the same. Directed by Griffin Dunne, it stars Meg Ryan (right) and Matthew Broderick as two jilted lovers who plan to exact revenge on their former partners (Tcheky Karyo and Kelly Preston, Mrs John Travolta in real life). Inevitably, during their scheming they gradually find

themselves drawn to each other. What with *Sleepless in Seattle* and *You've Got Mail*, her fluffy comedy drama with Tom Hanks, just coming out, Ryan is making something of a specialty of these light romances.

"Violent Volcano", tonight's Extreme Earth (9pm National Geographic), focuses on the devastating effect of the volcanic eruptions on the Caribbean island of Montserrat.

JAMES RAMPTON



(068905). 1.00 Treasure Hunters (235744). 1.30 Wheel Nuts (355155). 2.00 Close.

SKY ONE
2.00 Count Duckula (58031). 3.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (59002). 6.30 Grimmy (53573). 9.00 Earthworm Jim (59473). 9.30 Fish Gordon (30382). 10.00 Nicolas and Other Wonders (54054). 11.00 Gullit (51585). 12.00 Jerry Jones (20215). 1.00 Mad about You (55302). 1.30 Jeopardy (40079). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (20232). 3.00 Jerry Jones (55573). 4.00 Gullit (55705). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (5753). 6.00 Gullit (4557). 6.30 Dream Team (5437). 7.00 The Simpsons (2302). 7.30 The Simpsons (7321). 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (1050). 8.30 World's Wildest TV (7857). 9.00 Friends (4553). 9.30 E R (6007). 10.00 Nicolas and Other Wonders (54054). 10.30 Dream Team (5437). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (4524). 12.30 The Commish (78053). 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (73554).

SKY SPORTS 1
2.00 Sky Sports Centre (321229). 2.45 World Wrestling (54355). 6.45 You're on Sky Sports (21038). 8.00 Racing News (25437). 9.00 America's Oz Style (25325). 10.00 Unbelievable Sports (7532). 10.30 European Tour Golf (54015). 1.00 Football Special Manchester United vs Arsenal (55335). 3.00 Unbelievable Sports (2321). 3.30 Worthington Cup Football (57080). 5.00 Sunderland vs Leicester (57080). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (57527). 1.00 Fish TV Fishing Tase (5043383). 1.30 Fish TV America

(5873). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (7505). 6.30 Football League Review (5857). 7.00 European Tour Golf (54015). 8.00 Spanish Football Barcelona vs Valencia (5125). 10.30 Sky Sports Centre (58587). 10.45 You're on Sky Sports (21038). 11.30 Football League Review (7505). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (57080). 12.45 You're on Sky Sports (21038). 1.00 Spanish Football Barcelona vs Valencia (5125). 1.30 Sky Sports Centre (58587). 3.45 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
2.00 America's Oz Style (25325). 2.30 Sky Sports Centre (58587). 2.45 Racing News (25437). 3.00 Unbelievable Sports (7532). 3.30 World Sports Centre (58587). 4.00 Trans World Sport (570347). 5.00 Snooker (70505). 10.00 Ford Golf USA - Nissan Open (47048). 12.00 Tight Lines (47048). 1.00 Ice Hockey Manchester Storm vs Bracknell Bees (57741). 3.30 Sky Sports Centre (58587). 3.45 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
2.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (57527). 1.00 Fish TV Fishing Tase (5043383). 1.30 Fish TV America

Outdoors (5702505). 2.00 Transworld Sport (583422). 3.00 Futbol Mundial (575708). 3.30 Watersports World (58587). 4.00 Sports Unlimited (754432). 5.30 Survival of the Fittest (575234). 9.00 Inside the PGA Tour (575347). 9.30 Tight Lines (553323). 12.00 Ice Hockey (58587). 10.00 Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (5840692). 11.30 Close.

ELIMOSPORT
2.30 Golf USA PGA Tour (4547). 8.30 Football (55055). 10.30 Sky Jumps (3616). 11.30 Start Your Engines (56703). 12.30 Car on Ice (58437). 1.00 Judo (48932). 2.00 Tights (1050). 4.00 Olympic Magazine (2238). 6.00 Football (58234). 6.30 Tennis (4554). 7.00 Racing Line (1050). 8.00 Boxing (5947). 9.00 Sumo (1234). 10.00 Football UEFA Cup (5521). 11.00 Racing Line (571). 12.00-12.30 Olympic Magazine (58432).

UK GOLD
2.00 Crossroads (582654). 2.30 Neighbours (5757). 3.00 The Bill (58587). 3.30 The Bill (58587). 4.00 The Bill (584944). 4.30 When the Boat Comes In (576401). 5.00 Rhoda (584323). 11.00 Dallas (585031). 11.55 Neighbours (58587). 12.25 EastEnders (582503). 1.00 Judd Gell (573552). 2.00 Dallas (576401). 2.35 The Bill (576883). 3.25 The Bill (584323). 4.30 Rhoda (58587). 5.00 All Creatures Great and

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsnight (505). 11.50 Hearts and Minds (11425). 12.20 Film: The Palladium View (58587). 2.00 News 24 (582167).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 12.30 Dateline (5858050). 12.45 Dochaide Mor (26146147). 6.00 News (925). 6.30 Reporting Scotland (505). 10.30 Life According to Fred (43242).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (505). 10.50 Question Time (70321). 10.45 Eurovision (583031). 11.20 Question Time (75383). 12.20 They Think It's All Over Again (594273). 12.50 Film: The Palladium View (714703). 2.35 John BGC News 24 (7573815).

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (532215). 1.00 Shortland Street (573041). 1.35 Home and Away (582825). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 3.20 Anglia News (521). 6.30 About Anglia (573). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather

(58437). 11.40 Thursday Night Live (452079). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 1.25 T in the Park (585890). 2.25 Box Office America (585893). 2.50 Cybernet (184089). 3.20 Murder, She Wrote (581824). 4.30 Pottery about Pats (5826797). 4.35 Coach (5825154). 5.00 TV Nightscreen (12535).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (532215). 1.00 Echo Point (7125). 3.20 Central News (500201). 5.40 Shortland Street (5043215). 6.00 Home and Away (582825). 6.25 Central News and Weather (474763). 6.45 Lifetime (583470). 10.30 Central News and Weather (58437). 10.45 Joffinder (585042). 10.50 Asian Eye (72676).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (7134654). 12.45 HTV News (753333). 1.00 Shortland Street (7125). 1.30 Home and Away (582825). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 3.20 HTV News (500201). 5.30 A Country Practice (5043215). 6.00 Home and Away (45554). 6.25 Wales Tonight (505050). 7.30 Forgotten Treasures

(5873). 10.30 HTV News (58437). 11.40 Thursday Night Live (452079). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 1.25 T in the Park (585890). 2.25 Box Office America (585893). 2.50 Cybernet (184089). 3.20 Murder, She Wrote (581824). 4.30 Pottery about Pats (5826797). 4.35 Coach (5825154). 5.00 TV Nightscreen (12535).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 6.25 HTV News (701419). 6.30 The West (573). 7.30 We Can Work It Out (587).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (7134654). 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (753333). 1.00 Shortland Street (7125). 1.30 Home and Away (582825). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (58437). 11.40 Thursday Night Live (452079). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 1.25 T in the Park (585890). 2.25 Box Office America (585893). 2.50 Cybernet

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WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (7134654). 12.45 Westcountry News (753333). 1.00 Shortland Street (7125). 1.30 Home and Away (582825). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 3.20 Westcountry News (58437). 11.40 Thursday Night Live (452079). 12.40 The Jerry Springer Show (505555). 1.25 T in the Park (585890). 2.25 Box Office America (585893). 2.50 Cybernet

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TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (532215). 3.20 North East News and Weather (500201). 5.35 North East Weather (164620). 6



to strengthen its Black and white (BBC). In 1988, two reporters, one black one white, went undercover in Bristol with hidden cameras to investigate racial discrimination. Now a new pair, Rob Jones and Key Jones, is doing the same thing in Leeds. This week's programme started out quite encouragingly as Key (the black one) went after a rented room: the man he approached looked embarrassed and mumbled that it had gone. Key made his excuses and left, minding his manners and his microphone and muttering that if ever he had seen a white man

though, was not too solemn or concerned, but the programme's concentration on Rob and Key's own prejudices resists it, which has weak credibility in a fight. No doubt there were a serious purpose to this — illustrating how hard it is for a white man to understand the daily humiliations suffered by some of his people — and genuine tensions. But the way it was presented felt contrived, a sop to an audience used to soap opera. Actually I think they're underestimating public taste and intelligence. See Channel 5? Not too tired to strain so hard?

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Channel 5

31

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TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERRARD GILMER

THURSDAY TELEVISION

Channel 5

31

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